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No Progress at Georgian-Abkhaz Talks in Geneva

LD2402171594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1145 GMT 24 Feb 94

[Text] Two working groups to develop drafts of the final document and agreement on refugees have been formed at the third round of the Georgian-Abkhazian negotiations underway in Geneva, the press center of Abkhazia's plenipotentiary representative to Russia reported to INTERFAX.

According to the press center, leader of the Georgian delegation Jaba Ioseliani accused the Abkhazian side of waging "ethnic cleansing" in Abkhazia's Gali Region and said that "the Abkhazians respect only the language of force." He expressed doubt with respect to further continuation of the negotiations. Leader of the Abkhazian delegation Premier Sokrat Dzhindzholia rejected Ioseliani's assertions and called them "insulting."

Meanwhile, member of the Georgian delegation Irakly Makhavariani reported in his interview with the Georgian TV on Thursday [24 February] that two days of the negotiations were fruitless. In his words, the parties are coordinating the document to return refugees to Abkhazia. Machavariani pointed out that the parties occupy controversial positions on this issue, that's why "it is difficult to find common approaches."

He did not rule out that negotiations to be concluded February 24 would be continued on February 25 because, to quote Machavariani, "there is a certain advance in the position of the Abkhazian party."

Official Hopes for 'Certain Consensus'

LD2402214694 Tbilisi CONTACT INFORMATION AGENCY in Russian 1530 GMT 24 Feb 94

[Text] We had a telephone conversation today with Irakli Machavariani, a member of the Georgian delegation at the Geneva talks on settling the Abkhazian conflict. He reported that the Abkhazian party had put forward a concept of Abkhazia's legal statute that is absolutely unacceptable for Georgia. It stipulates "not even a confederative restructuring within the frame of an integral Georgia but rather a form of a treaty much more resembling relations between two neighboor states, in addition, rather cool."

Machavariani particularly pointed out that the Abkhazian party behaves as a "victor" in the light of recent events in Gali Rayon and this causes extreme aggravation in the atmosphere of the talks.

However, said Machavariani, representatives of the world community and Russia at the talks keep backing an idea of Georgia's territorial integrity and in this respect their position is quite close to that of Georgia. This permits us to pin hopes on reaching a certain consensus while handling the problem.

According to Machavariani, a concluding sitting will be held tomorrow, when the work carried out at the talks will be summed up.

Geneva Delegation Appeals to UN

LD2502001394 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1900 GMT 24 Feb 94

[Text] As is known, the third round of Abkhaz-Georgian talks is under way in Geneva. A statement made by the Georgian delegation at the talks says in particular:

Georgia is in a worse situation at the start of the third round of talks on the large-scale settlement of the Abkhazian conflict than it was during the second. Thousands of civilians in Gali Rayon have been driven out of the region. Hundreds of houses have been burned down. Hundreds of people have been killed, frozen, or injured. Representatives of the Gudauta regime made absurd statements at the Moscow talks of experts on Abkhazia's political statute within Georgia, thus making ineffective all efforts made by the group of experts to accomplish their task constructively.

Having seen that Russian-Georgian relations are turning to a new stage and that this will result in the stabilization of the situation in the whole Caucasian region, Gudauta separatists did everything they could to prevent the signing of the treaty on friendship, good-neighborliness, and cooperation between Russia and Georgia. The moment the treaty was signed and was welcomed by the whole world, Abkhaz armed gangs, together with mercenaries, launched a large-scale operation on driving the remaining Georgian families out of Gali Rayon. On the very day—on 3 February 1994 when the Russian-Georgian treaty was signed—Abkhaz forces armed with heavy equipment burned down a number of villages in Gali Rayon. It should be emphasized that the Gudauta authorities did not allow representatives of the UN mission in Sukhumi to enter the area of punitive operations.

This convinces us that realizing that the state of affairs is driving toward the unconditional elimination of the regime and that they will not be able to prove the logical concept of the separatist and fascist regime they had established against the territorial integrity of Georgia, the Gudauta authorities are using the policy of a completed fact.

Will this challenge to, not only Georgia but also the whole world community continue? How many resolutions should be taken by the UN Security Council to convince the Gudauta separatists to rethink themselves.

We highly appreciate efforts taken by Edouard Brunner, the UN secretary general's personal envoy. It was due to his efforts that a certain success was reached at the talks. A constructive policy by the Russian delegation was also positive during the drafting of important documents. But the time has come for more vigorous activity.

We appeal to the United Nations Organization to seek effective means to end the suffering of hundreds of thousands of people. The Gali events convinced us that all negotiations are only used as screens by the Gudauta regime. We cannot participate in this sort of development. This would encourage Abkhaz separatism. Every negotiation should be based on trust, but this very trust and hope of the Abkhazian side's goodwill has been eliminated. The development of events demonstrates that Abkhaz separatists respect and recognize only the language of force.

Council of Defense Ministers Agenda Reported

LD2402112394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1110 GMT 24 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Ostanin]

[Text] Moscow February 24 TASS—The Council of Defence Ministers of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) will hold a two-day meeting in Moscow. The meeting will open at 15:00 on Thursday [24 February], ITAR-TASS learnt at the public information centre of the headquarters on coordination of military cooperation between the CIS member states.

The meeting agenda consists of five items, including the approval of regulations on the Council of Defence Ministers of CIS member states. The decision on setting up the Council was adopted at the Commonwealth summit in Minsk in February 1992.

Today's meeting will sum up the results of drafting the main issues for coordinating military construction in the CIS.

The meeting will also decide on the staff establishment of the headquarters on coordination of military cooperation. It is supposed that the headquarters' divisions will be staffed on a coordination basis.

Its staff will consist of 250 people, including 120 from Russia. The headquarters is charged with collecting, summerising and analysing open information on the military and political situation in the world and regions of interest to the CIS countries.

The headquarters will also concert efforts to give mutual aid in creating and developing national armed forces.

The situation on the Tajik-Afghan border has become a traditional item at defence ministers' meetings over the recent past. The present meeting will decide on additional measures to stabilise the situation there.

The ministers will also discuss the celebration of the 50th anniversary since the end of the second world war. Meeting participants are supposed to take two decisions: measures to prepare for the celebration of the victory anniversary and to hold a spartakiad of CIS Armed Forces.

Gromov on Military Cooperation

LD2402233694 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1900 GMT 24 Feb 94

[Text] The Defense Ministers Council of the Commonwealth of Independent States at its session in Moscow on Thursday [24 February] discussed military cooperation and ways of reinforcing defenses along the Tajik-Afghan border.

Russia's Deputy Defense Minister Boris Gromov is quoted as saying the ministers have managed to form a legal basis for further military cooperation within the Commonwealth.

Azerbaijan, Georgia and Belarus are taking part in the session as full fledged members of the council following their admission to the CIS.

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 24 Feb

LD2402073694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0720 GMT 24 Feb 94

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow February 24 (ITAR-TASS)—The ROSSIISKIYE VESTI newspaper front-pages a series of reports under the general heading "non-payment" on a difficult social and economic situation of workers in the Russian Federation.

"February will soon be over, but wages have not been paid even for January," writes a worker from a Moscow engineering works. According to the works manager, "workshops are packed with ready-made products which are not paid for by customers. Non-payments topped one billion roubles".

In this connection, the newspaper cites the opinion of professor Valeriy Vorontsov, adviser to a Russian vice-premier. The government's economic and social policy, he writes, "should be conducted in such a way as to permit able-bodied citizens earn as much as it would be enough for their high living standards".

In the next few days, the government will discuss, he continued, "the guidelines of social policy for 1994" where it will be worded as a concrete programme "for the first time over the past years".

The TRUD newspaper features a interview with Gavriil Popov, leader of the Russian Movement of Democratic Reforms, who spelled out his ideas on how to pull the country out of the political and economic crisis.

"We have won nothing by destroying the Soviet Union," he stresses. "All republics thought that they would live well by separating from Russia. But they were labouring in the wrong. The West did not help us either. And will not help."

Popov expresses hope that his movement will make a contribution to a search for a new course of reforms meeting Russia's conditions. However, "there is no alternative to reforms," he claims.

The SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA newspaper singles out an article on forging the poll of December 12, 1993 on the draft Russian constitution. Facts of forgery were exposed, as a result of which the number of votes "for" were increased and votes "against" cut.

Rimma Korelova, a former member of a constituency electoral commission in the Far East, described these facts in an article published by the AMURSKAYA PRAVDA newspaper. She expressed protest in the newspaper and said that she quits the regional organisation "Democratic Russia".

The same newspaper prints an essay on Russian geopolitics under the headline "Russia's feat", which is to be

continued. The essay was penned by Gennadiy Zyuganov, leader of the Russian Communist Party.

Tracing the sources for the growth of Russia's continental might which, according to the author, seemed "to be eternal and invincible", Zyuganov writes that, despite evident facts, "the 20th Century was for our country a period of destructive social cataclysms".

To understand this, he believes it is necessary to turn to spiritual and conceptual processes which determined the strength of the Russian power.

The PRAVDA newspaper singles out an article by Valentin Kuptsov, first deputy chairman of the Russian Communist Party, where he advocates Russia's return to the socialist way of development. "Only the socialist locomotive will pull the country out of the crisis," Kuptsov claims.

The TRUD newspaper comments on a decision by the State Duma (lower house of the Russian parliament) on the political amnesty, claiming that "this is a clean victory of factions opposing the president" in the lower house.

Reporting a visit by Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev to Prague where the Russian minister and Czech leaders focused on a Bosnian settlement, ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI carries his interview.

The newspaper writes that "a chance has emerged to return from unilateral to joint efforts of the entire world community" to settle the Bosnian crisis. The Russian president's initiative gives such a chance.

The IZVESTIYA newspaper singles out a report on the arrest of Aldrich Ames, 52, "the most important foreign spy in the system of American intelligence" who worked for the KGB from 1985 and then for the Russian intelligence service.

Noting that U.S. experts express indignation at "Russia's perfidy" in their comments and that the master spy betrayed many American agents to Moscow, the newspaper writes: Russia "has the same rights to secret operations in the United States as America to espionage in Russia".

KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA notes that the arrest of Ames in the U.S. "can trigger the biggest spy scandal over the past years".

Writing about the same topic, the NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA newspaper notes that "his (Ames) recruitment and long-standing operations can be regarded as a clear success of national intelligence".

Press Review for 25 Feb

LD2502113194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1048 GMT 25 Feb 94

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow February 25 (ITAR-TASS)—Today's leading newspapers limit themselves mostly to a summary of the state of the nation address by Boris Yeltsin to the joint sitting of the Russian parliament, refraining from their own comments.

In the opinion of the KRASNAYA ZVEZDA, "the president's speech signifies, to some extent, a new stage in the development of intra- state relations: the Russian parliament received for the first time a presidential message called upon to give guidelines in political, economic and social construction for 1994".

"Legislators," the TRUD newspaper notes, "were waiting for the president's response to a decision taken by the lower house to pardon members of the state emergency committee (eds: they attempted an abortive coup in august 1991) as well as people involved in riots on May 1, 1993 and ringleaders of the coup in September-October 1993.

"But Yeltsin refrained from a direct appraisal. However, his speech contained the following idea: you can display mercy only if it does not contradict rules of law and morality."

"After reading the presidential message," the PRAVDA newspaper writes, "one is apt to ask the following question: is the country really changing the political, social and economic course in the interests of the majority of Russians or has Boris Yeltsin launched an election campaign for a new term of the presidency with his speech?"

The message, the NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA newspaper notes, "had to contain specific strategic plans of the president. However, the tradition of former reports on guidelines" which general secretaries of the former Communist Party of the Soviet Union liked to deliver, remained.

"Mr. Yeltsin limited himself to the enumeration of existing problems and general phrases on what direction should be taken to resolve them."

The KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA newspaper examines reasons for the arrest of CIA agent Aldrich Hazen Ames and his wife Maria del Rosario by FBI officers, to which American television was invited.

"Russia acted more confidently in the international arena in the recent past," the newspaper stresses. "Our diplomatic success in Bosnia and Herzegovina evidently exhausted the U.S. Administration's patience: Americans were snubbed there.

"Therefore, Ames's scandal broke out exactly at this time. It is precisely at this time that Washington wants to stop Moscow and to remind it who is master in the world.

"In good old times when a Western power fell into fits of hysteria about Soviet spies, Moscow replied with the principle of 'tit for tat': arrest for arrest, expulsion for expulsion.

"Even Mikhail Gorbachev acted the same way at the beginning of his rule. Later, political will weakened. Then, the Soviet Union collapsed. If Russia wants to display firmness, spies can be found in Moscow too."

TRUD runs its own material on the state's delays with payment of wages. The newspaper notes that "the Russian Statistics Committee reported: wage arrears more than doubled in january, totalling a sky-high sum of 1,681.3 billion roubles. Over 30,000 enterprises in industry and agriculture did not pay wages and salaries to their employees."

The ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI newspaper forecasts the dollar's exchange rate to the rouble in 1994. The newspaper believes that the dollar's rate will reach 2,650-3,190 roubles by the end of the year.

The RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA newspaper prints a sensation that a Russian scholar designed an instrument for liaison with... Ghosts. "It would seem that talk about miracles is out of question in our era of pragmatism and scientific discoveries.

"But actualities of life beat our imagination. In any case, Gennadiy Markov of Novosibirsk invented an instrument for liaison with a supreme outer space intellect and carriers of its information—ghosts."

St. Petersburg mayor Anatoliy Sobchak sent a proposal to Finnish Housing Minister Pirjo Rusanen: To complete the establishment of a joint stock society in the shortest possible time in order to implement a joint housing project in St. Petersburg—"Northern Valley-Pargolovo".

The project is worth 15 billion Finnish marks and will be financed with credits from international banks and personal savings of future condominium owners, reports the VECHERNYY PETERBURG newspaper.

Foreign Ministry Statement Issued on Ames Case

LD2502150994 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1356 GMT 25 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent]

[Text] Moscow, 25 Feb—The Russian Foreign Ministry today issued a press statement in connection with the arrest of the Ameses in Washington. It says:

"Sufficiently close contacts exist between Russia and the United States to raise any questions. As has been announced, the investigation into the Ames case was going on for 10 months. We suggest that this was sufficient time for us to be contacted directly and for them to share their anxieties with us before making them public.

"We are opposed to the attempts by the special services to drag the political leadership into their mutual relations. The appropriate channels are there. And they can be fully brought into use.

"The political consequences of this story give cause for concern. Our partnership has withstood a series of serious tests, the latest one arising from the crisis around Sarajevo. We shall cope with this misunderstanding, too. However there are circles in the United States, just as there are, incidentally, in Russia, who are not interested in friendship between the two major powers. They became noticeably active after the successful summit in Moscow, at which a solution was made to bring relations between Russia and the United States to the stage of mature strategic partnership. We reaffirm yet again that within the framework of this course it is possible to find an appropriate solution to this situation, too."

Foreign Ministry Aide Comments

MK2402112094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 24 Feb 94 p 1

[Vladimir Abarinov report in the "Espionage" column: "A Russian Agent Has Been Arrested In Washington. Never Pay Cash in America"]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] The FBI has investigated the Ames case for two years. He was finally tracked down last October when Ames took time off to visit his mother-in-law in Bogota. It transpired, however, that Ames' mother-in-law lives in the United States, while instead of Bogota her son-in-law went to Caracas to meet a contact. It was also known that in buying a house in Arlington, Virginia, Ames paid cash. [passage omitted]

The Foreign Intelligence Service [FIS] refused to comment on the incident. In his time, responding to a question from General Volkogonov, who sought to justify the famous spy Alger Hiss, FIS director Yevgeniy Primakov said: "The Foreign Intelligence Service gives no information about who is or is not a spy." This time it has done exactly the same. According to an FIS press service official, all special services of the world act like this in such circumstances. Meanwhile, FIS press service chief Yuriy Kobaladze in an interview with INTERFAX made a statement which can be seen as indirect confirmation. Intelligence, he said, even in a changing world, remains intelligence, with its own specific means and interests. Grigoriy Karasin, Russian Foreign Affairs Ministry Information and Press Department director, said in a telephone conversation that concerning the report on the Ames case provided by the State Department, Moscow has some questions that should be clarified through direct contacts between the special services. "We believe," Karasin said, "that special services can straighten things out especially since their cooperation has been developing successfully."

U.S. and Russian special services are, indeed, cooperating. One such sphere of cooperation is fighting drug trafficking. Lately Ames' responsibility in the CIA has been precisely in this area. Apparently the contact whom Ames met in Caracas used the same "cover."

Lavrov Calls Ames Case 'Washington's Internal Affair'

LD2402174294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1501 GMT 24 Feb 94

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature: Reports by diplomatic correspondents Dmitriy Voskoboinikov, Igor Porshnev, Vitaliy Trubetskoy, and others]

[Text] The detention of the CIA member Aldrich Ames and his wife Maria on charges of spying in favor of Moscow is Washington's internal affair, Russia's Deputy Foreign Minister, Sergey Lavrov, told Interfax on Thursday [24 February]. This is his personal assessment of what happened, he noted.

"This is a problem for the Americans. They detained their own citizen, a CIA member, and they must deal with him in accordance with their own laws. Instead of it high-ranking U.S. officials have said, before trial, that this incident may have an impact on Russian-American relations. We do not quite understand it," Lavrov said.

The U.S. secretary of state, Warren Christopher, has already told Senate that he has no intention of commenting on events that concern America's intelligence work, he noted. "He can comment on other country's intelligence work, but not on that of America. Following this logic I must refrain from commenting on our activity, the more so as I do not see our activity in this case. What I see is that they arrested their own man. But this is their own problem. Let their court of law consider the charges against Ames," Lavrov said.

He finds it hard to say why this incident "surfaced" right now. "Judging by what U.S. officials say, they have been dealing with this business for a long time. It's not quite clear why they decided to sort it out right now. This was a step taken by the American side, and we learned about it after the fact," the diplomat said.

Lavrov was skeptical about the supposition that "the Ameses case" is a kind of "retaliation" for Russia's political efforts to resolve the crisis in Bosnia. "It's hard to

imagine that the Americans decided to "avenge themselves" on Russia in this way. This would have been too petty," Lavrov said.

With reference to his Tuesday's meeting with the U.S. ambassador to Moscow, Thomas Pickering, the diplomat said that the ambassador had only handed him written information concerning Washington's reaction to the Ameses incident. "We accepted it and promised to study it in detail," Russia's deputy foreign minister said.

It's essential to avoid "emotions and overdramatization" in connection with the Ameses case, said the Director of the Foreign Ministry's press and information department, Grigoriy Karasin, at Thursday's briefing.

The Foreign Ministry received information concerning this through "official channels", he said. "However there are many serious questions that need to be analysed before making any conclusions," Karasin noted.

According to him, this should be dealt with by professionals from Russian and American secret services. "Contacts between them are well established. The main thing is to settle the incident without political or diplomatic complications and avoid kindling passions," the spokesman for Russia's Foreign Ministry said.

Lavrov Comments 'Skeptically'

LD2402220794 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 2020 GMT 24 Feb 94

[From the "Vesti" newscast]
oreign Minister Sergey Lavrov has commented skeptically on the idea that the Ames affair might be a response to the political activity displayed by Russia in resolving the Bosnian crisis. Foreign Ministry spokesman Grigoriy Karasin said today that it was important to avoid emotional and overdramatized attitudes and that it was necessary to analyze the situation before drawing any conclusions.

At the same time experts continue commenting on the situation from very different angles. Here is a report by Andrey Pishchayev.

[Pishchayev] Recently, a similar incident occurred between the United States and Israel but the scandal promptly died down. On this occasion, however, the American side is talking about a great detriment to its national interests and has nearly started wondering whether it ought to continue its friendship with Russia. [passage omitted]

Many questions arise in connection with this scandal. CIA staff had been closely watching the Moscow agent for two years, so why did they choose to arrest him at this particular point? President Clinton knew about the forthcoming arrest when he was leaving for the Moscow summit with Boris Yeltsin.

[Begin V. Kremenyuk, deputy director of the Institute for U.S. and Canadian studies, recording] The fact that this incident emerged just now confirms that Clinton was not quite satisfied with the results of that summit, and that he was particularly displeased with the outcome of the recent crisis in Bosnia. [end recording]

According to Kremenyuk, the reasoning behind President Clinton's sanction of the spy's arrest went like this:

[Begin Kremenyuk recording] Let us make it clear that they [Russians] are no peacemakers but merely the same dirty spies that they always used to be. Let us create a small crisis that would enable us to put some pressure on Yeltsin. [end recording]

In the opinion of Russian diplomats, it would be too petty a revenge on Russia. Anyway, we can only guess why the Ames affair has emerged so unexpectedly.

Kalugin on U.S. Demand for Recall of Diplomats

LD2502114194 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 2010 GMT 24 Feb 94

[Text] The U.S. Department of Justice has announced that a Central Intelligence Agency officer, Aldrich Hazen Ames, and his wife Maria, have been accused of spying for the former Soviet Union and later Russia.

It's an established rule worldwide that secret services don't comment on such events. It would be logical to turn to the United States Government for clarification about Russia's involvement in the case. Yet the interest of the press and the public at large in such incidents is natural.

Radio Moscow's reporter has asked Oleg Kalugin, former general of the KGB, the State Security Committee of the former Soviet Union, how he sees this incident. Oleg Kalugin is a well-known personality in this country. He was an active member of the former Supreme Soviet. Oleg Kalugin says that when it comes to intelligence affairs, the general public may only guess.

[Begin Kalugin recording, in Russian with superimposed English translation] My opinion is based on TV and radio reports, including CNN, whose programs I often watch at home. Undoubtedly Mr. Ames is a man in the know, and I see his arrest both as a failure and a success of the United States counterintelligence, which has been able to unmask an experienced spy who held an important position in the American CIA.

But when I hear a demand by U.S. officials that Russian diplomats should be recalled, I think this is an overreaction. Russian intelligence officers have been arrested for spying for foreign countries more than once. In such a situation the Russian foreign ministry has never urged the Americans to recall their diplomats, unless they were caught redhanded.

I do believe the case has done big moral damage to the United States. However, I would prefer not to overdramatize the situation, and I don't think that Russian-American relations will worsen as a result of the incident. I think this episode is a legacy of the Cold War. That legacy is still with us and will be for some time. [end recording]

CIA Delegation To Visit Moscow 'Soon'

LD2402133194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1316 GMT 24 Feb 94

[Text] Moscow February 24—According to reliable sources, high-ranking officials of the Central Intelligence Agency are due to arrive in Moscow from the United States soon to discuss the case of the Ames, a married couple charged with espionage in favour of the former Soviet Union and, later, Russia.

The U.S. President's spokeswoman Dee Dee Myers said on Wednesday [23 February] that the former leader of the CIA counterintelligence department targeting the Soviet Union, Aldrich H. Ames and his wife evoked suspicions some ten months ago and were closely watched by the Central Intelligence Agency and the Federal Bureau of Investigations until the American Administration took the case to court charging the two with espionage.

The exact date of the arrival of the American delegation is not yet known. It is likely that the CIA officials will wait for Russian external intelligence service chief Yevgeniy Primakov to return home from Prague. It is not ruled out that in view of the ballyhoo in the United States around the Ames affair, his former colleagues may ask for a prompt assignment with the leaders of the Russian intelligence service.

The press service of the U.S. Embassy in Moscow declined to comment at ITAR-TASS request on the forthcoming visit of CIA officials to Moscow.

Team 'Already Visited'

LD2502101094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0955 GMT 25 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Washington February 25 TASS—A U.S. daily said that a CIA team, which was reported to be only preparing for a trip to Moscow in connection with the arrest of Aldrich Ames on charges of spying for Kremlin, had already visited the Russian capital.

THE WASHINGTON POST said on Friday [25 February] that the CIA delegation failed to achieve what it had expected during the trip and is returning home.

In Moscow the Russian Foreign Intelligence Service refused either to confirm or deny the report.

Spokesman Boris Labusov told TASS that he has no necessary information to comment on THE WASHINGTON POST report.

Roundup of U.S. Developments in Ames Case

LD2502102094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0910 GMT 25 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Pavel Vanichkin]

[Text] Washington February 25 TASS—American and Russian officials these days are holding consultations via different channels concerning the arrest of CIA officer Aldrich Ames and his wife on charges of spying for Moscow. ITAR-TASS has learned from reliable sources that U.S. State Department officials are due to meet with Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Georgiy Mamedov in Washington to discuss various diplomatic aspects of American-Russian relations as scheduled before the arrest of the Ames on Monday. The arrest will certainly add a new aspect to consultations.

U.S. Attorney-General Janet Reno said on Thursday it had raised the question about the espionage case at a meeting with representatives of the Russian law enforcement agencies on the same day.

The local press confirmed on Thursday a report circulated by ITAR-TASS earlier about the U.S. Administration's decision to send CIA officials to Moscow for consultations on the Ames affair. Judging by reports in the American mass media, the delegation will also include FBI and State Department officials.

On the whole the passions are flaring around the espionage speculations. At first, American journalists said two Soviet citizens who were spying for the United States were exposed and executed at the end of the 1980's on a tip from Ames, now they say that the number of such people is at least ten. A CIA official, who spoke to ITAR-TASS on condition of anonymity on Wednesday, said he could neither confirm nor deny the fact of the death of two American spies. On Thursday, CIA spokesman David French refused to reply to any questions from ITAR-TASS. He explained his refusal by saying that the Central Intelligence Agency was maintaining contacts only with the American press.

Another interesting news reached ITAR-TASS from the Justice Ministry's official John Russell on Thursday. According to him, the judge has decided to postpone hearings in the case of the Ames couple from Friday to next Tuesday. French told ITAR-TASS he did not know the exact reason for the postponement but surmised that the hearings were adjourned on request of the defence attorney.

Ames Allegedly Betrayed by FIS Informant

MK2402131094 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 24 Feb 94 p 14

[International Affairs Department, Operational Information Department report: "Two Russian Spies Caught. Clinton Delayed a 'Present' Until the Day of the Defenders of the Fatherland"]

[Excerpts] According to information received from the United States yesterday, after two years of surveillance the FBI has arrested Aldrich Ames, a CIS department chief with a 30-year service record, and his Colombian-born wife, Maria del Rosario Casas. The agents, charged with spying for the USSR and later Russia, face life imprisonment. The emergence of yet another "Rosenberg case"—they were executed in the early 1950's for selling nuclear secrets to the USSR—might well not have transcended the

limits of the talk about the hard life of "cloak-and-dagger knights" were it not for a juicy detail. KOMMERSANT-DAILY has learned from confidential sources that Aldrich Ames was detained 10 months ago, not this Monday. At any rate, for some reason it was decided to "expose" the agents precisely at this juncture.

The Ames' May Have Been Given Up by an FIS "Mole"

Boris Labusov, official at the Russian Foreign Intelligence Service [FIS]'s press bureau, said in response to your KOMMERSANT-DAILY correspondent's request that he comment on the report: "Under the Russian Law on Foreign Intelligence, this incident will not be commented upon." A trustworthy source close to the FIS spoke to your KOMMERSANT-DAILY correspondent about the actual mood that has reigned among FIS chiefs after the exposure of the Ames'. The atmosphere of shock and despondency at the loss of a very valuable agent has been compounded by a suspicion, which has already evolved into a firm conviction, that Aldrich Ames was given up to the Americans by an as yet unidentified high-ranking official of the FIS itself. "This is a 'mole' we have been dug up from within," the KOMMERSANT-DAILY source claims. "Moreover, judging from the Ames case, the level of information he has had access to limits the number of potential traitors to a very narrow range of persons. It is at the level of Primakov's deputies." [passage omitted]

Qui Prodest?

The "spy passions" in relations between Moscow and Washington have been a common phenomenon, but it is unclear why it was decided, after two years of surveillance, to "expose" the agents precisely at this stage and with such a brouhaha. As a matter of fact, according to reports from FIS sources, the Russian special services' "catch" of Western spies in 1993 was worthy of being registered in the Guinness Book of World Records: It exceeded even the record high of 30 or so spies achieved under Vladimir Kryuchkov. And no clamor whatsoever! According to the rules of "the invisible war," however, if someone is caught red-handed here, this gesture is set to be reciprocated oversees. The only cause of "indignation" may be the "dumping" practiced by CIA recruiters in Russia: They pay virtually no "regular salaries," whereas "lump sum" payments usually do not exceed $30,000-40,000.

The war of intelligence services has tended to climax in periods of chilliness in interstate relations. Evidently, they have presently decided in the United States that the time has come. Why now? There are a number of suggestions. The U.S. Congress has just started the consideration of the next year's budget, and the draft has not contained lavish financial promises to the CIA. So far. But what appears to be the actual reason is the emerging chilliness in Russia's relations with the West. Furthermore, a meeting of the Group of Seven finance ministers will open on Saturday. The main question is the revision of the system of assistance to Russia. Washington has already hinted that if Russia "takes appropriate steps," the United States "will continue productive cooperation" (meaning the $2.5 billion of U.S. assistance). As a result of the chilliness, however, the as yet vague outlines of hostility toward the Chernomyrdin government may take on a more definite shape. And the former linkage of the assistance to the demand that "reform should continue" may be replaced by a more familiar rivalry with Russia. Of course, two arrested agents are not enough to change a climate. But they do spoil the weather.

U.S. Comments Noted

PM2402170594 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 25 Feb 94 First Edition pp 1, 6

[Article by Vladimir Nadein: "Growing Spy Scandal—They Are Demanding That Russia Take 'Voluntary Steps' To Curb Intelligence Against the West"]

[Text] Washington—On Wednesday [23 February], U.S. President Bill Clinton once again answered numerous questions from journalists in connection with the arrest of Aldrich Ames and his wife, accused of spying for the USSR and then also for Russia. For almost eight years, the person in charge of counterintelligence against the Soviet KGB was passing his country's topmost secrets to his Moscow masters—for which he received from them more than $1.5 million.

Although on the previous evening, this prime news item did not leave the television screens, and the life of the married couple, in which not only the husband but also the wife were CIA staffers, had been subjected to thorough and almost month-by-month analysis, something substantial was added Wednesday. Citing official sources, radio stations reported that Aldrich Ames' activity had led, in particular, to the tragic deaths not so long ago of two Russian citizens who were CIA agents working for the United States. They were executed for treason—without trial or investigation.

The U.S. President repeated once again that he regards this as a very serious case and that the scale of the damage to the government is not yet clear, although it is already known to be great. Clinton said that he has not spoken about this with Russian President B. Yeltsin, so as to give the Russian authorities time to consider an official response.

According to B. Clinton's statements, the special feature of the case consists in the fact that it is a question not of an "ordinary spy" but of a CIA veteran with 31 years' service. It was possible to understand from the President's retort that recruitment of a high official is a violation of certain accords.

The fact that there have been accords of this kind between the two governments is indirectly borne out by the fact that over the past two years quite a few U.S. counterintelligence staffers have been moved to the sphere of combating drugs, including A. Ames himself. It was possible to conclude from the comments of one former State Department staffer that the Russians had promised at a high level—if not the presidential level, then very close to it—to change

the rules of the game and to get away from the usual espionage of the "Cold War" style. And now this turn of events....

President Clinton said at the news conference that there are at least two reasons to demand appropriate actions from Russia. The first is already known—the recruitment of a high official. The President said of the second reason only that he cannot speak of it yet, but he will when the time comes.

U.S. Secretary of State W. Christopher, who usually treads delicately and avoids harsh statements, endeavored to appear as fierce as possible when he maintained that the United States will never be able to reconcile itself to "this way of acting by Russia." In the absence of the ambassador (V. Lukin quit this post after being elected to that of chairman of a Duma committee, and Yu. Vorontsov has not yet completed the thorny path of being confirmed), the young diplomat V.I. Chkhikvishvili, Russian charge d'affaires ad interim, is being summoned to the State Department several times a day.

Jim Collins, an expert on Russia and the former No. 2 man at the U.S. Embassy on Ulitsa Chaykovskogo, has insistently recommended, so certain sources maintain, that Moscow refrain from the traditional countermeasure—the expulsion of their present CIA resident agent. Moreover, it is proposed that Russian intelligence voluntarily recall or "call to order" those of its staffers who had contacts with Aldrich Ames "under diploamtic cover."

One high-ranking State Department staffer said: Immediate and voluntary "special steps by Russia" will make it possible to avoid the serious threat hanging over bilateral relations.

Commentators point out, however, that "the sunny relationship between Bill and Boris has receded into the Bosnian shade." Clinton himself, however carefully he chose his terms, made a very transparent allusion to the likelihood of a revision of "the whole policy (with regard to Yeltsin) which we have long followed."

The U.S. mass media regard the Duma's proclaimed pardon for the participants in two procommunist actions as a threat to Yeltsin and the reform process. This eases the bitterness somewhat and elicits some sympathy with the Russian president.

The opposition in Congress, however, is stepping up pressure on the administration. Bob Dole, the Senate Republican leader, has accused Clinton of placating the Kremlin for too long. Senator DeConcini, who once advocated giving Russia broad assistance, has now abruptly changed his stance.

Why is it that we Americans are indignant at Russia and are threatening to stop aid if we ourselves are doing the same thing against them? This question was asked over the telephone by a viewer of an evening television program entirely devoted to examining Mr. and Mrs. Ames. The commentator's reply, which followed at once, reflects the views of very many people in the United States. The gist of it was that the Russians are making fools of the Americans and abusing their kindness. By allocating billions in aid for Russia the United States is, as it were, paying for Russian espionage against itself and maintaining traitors with taxpayers' money.

Aldrich Ames and his wife, who appeared before a judge Tuesday, have not repented or asked for leniency. Maria, the 41-year-old wife of the former leader of counterintelligence directed against the USSR, comes from a well-off family. The Ames' attorneys will most likely ascribe the large purchases, which are far in excess of what a cadre CIA staffer can afford on his wages, to her family means.

Neither A. Ames' place of birth nor the educational institution from which he graduated have yet been divulged by the CIA leadership. But Aldrich's father is known also to have worked for this department and also been an intelligence officer but, unlike his son, to have been a "good guy."

U.S. officials and mass media are accusing Russian television and newspapers of concealing from the Russian public the seriousness of this case and the arguments of the U.S. Administration.

If the charge against the Ames is corroborated in court, they are both threatened with life imprisonment and a fine of $250,000.

Washington Correspondent Comments

PM2402150594 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 24 Feb 94 p 3

[Correspondent Vladislav Drobkov report: "Ames Affair. Power Politics Is a Tough Business. West Creates Image of 'Willful Russia'"]

[Excerpts] Washington D.C., 23 Feb—The U.S. capital, nestling cozily on the banks of the Potomac River, has not experienced such an outburst of passions over spying for a long time. Evening newspaper editions, television news broadcasts, statements by administration officials, including the president himself, and commentaries by observers and congressmen—everything on Tuesday [22 February] was devoted to the arrest of FBI agent and CIA officer Aldrich Ames [as published] and his wife. [passage omitted]

Vladimir Chkhikvishvili, Russian charge d'affaires ad interim, was hastily summoned to the State Department. He received a strong protest from the U.S. side. The local press reports that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher demanded that Russia remove Ames' Russian case officers from the United States.

"If the Russians do not do it we can do it for them," an anonymous administration official, quoted on television, threatened.

Local commentators were quick to predict that the Ames scandal could seriously cloud Russian-U.S. relations. Some people are already asking whether U.S. aid to Russia, which is "spying on the United States," should be

restricted. Former CIA Director Robert Gates claims that lately the Russian intelligence services, the GRU [Main Intelligence Directorate] in particular, have even stepped up their activities in the United States. But as a professional, Gates has urged that an excessive reaction to what has occurred be avoided.

Nevertheless, CNN reports, the double agent's arrest has already harmed diplomatic relations between our two countries. Collaboration between Moscow and Washington in the talks on a settlement in Bosnia has been jeopardized.

The fuss kicked up as if on command over what is, on the whole, an ordinary event is really surprising. After all, many local observers are now saying that there is nothing particularly new in the fact that both the United States and Russia are continuing to monitor each other.

But the history of m[illegible]elations between Washington and Moscow feature[illegible]onsiderable number of cases whereby "sensational revelations" and passions over spying proved to be by no means irrelevant to the carrying out of more significants acts. Are we not witnessing such a "coincidence" now?

U.S. Post-Ames Spy-Mania Would Be 'Bad Form'

PM2402122194 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 24 Feb 94 pp 1,7

[Commentary by Yelena Ovcharenko and Leonid Timofeyev under the general headline: "CIA Staffer Suspected of Working for KGB. Aldrich Ames' Arrest in the United States May Become the Biggest Spy Scandal of Recent Years"]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] **Our Commentary**

Do you remember Shtirlits [allusion to master spy figure from Russian fiction] baking potatoes in the fire 23 February? Really, we do not know what Aldrich Ames was intending to do that day, and we must not get ahead of the court investigation. But it is already possible to examine the outline of the preceding and imminent events.

In January, speaking in Congress, CIA Director J. Woolsey presented a tough program of spying activity in Russia—in four spheres. The boss is famous for the fact that during the whole of last year he had put pressure on U.S. legislators in an effort to secure something unprecedented: Despite the "political love affair" between America and Russia following the end of the Cold War, to not only keep appropriations for intelligence at the previous level, but even to snatch another 10 million or so, Woolsey worried the legislators into doing something—last year, he appeared in Congress 153 times! But, in all sincerity, what can be the best confirmation of being right than a sensational story about the sale of secrets to the Russians? And it is not that important what Shtirlits or Myuller [name as transliterated, allusion unknown] will turn out to be. The main thing is the therapeutic effect. And, incidentally, its consequences. And these can already be seen.

"Those who think that the Russians are doing 180 degree pirouettes and are becoming our closest allies are wrong," Dan Glickman, chairman of the House of Representatives Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence at Congress, said yesterday. And although White House Press Secretary Dee Dee Myers avoided answering the question of whether a reassessment of U.S. attitudes is not imminent in connection with the Ames affair, recalling that the spying activity began in 1985, "that is, in a fundamentally different historical period," CNN and CBC, citing sources in the administration, claim: "Russia will be allowed to send home its diplomats who collaborated with Ames on a voluntary basis. They will not be deported."

We did not manage to get in touch with Yevgeniy Primakov, the Russian Foreign Intelligence Service director. He went to Bratislava on Tuesday for a meeting with his Slovak colleagues. So it was Yuriy Kobaladze, leader of the Foreign Intelligence Service press service, who commented on the fact of the Ames' arrest for us. Or rather, he justly recalled there is not a single intelligence service in the world which comments on cases of the involvement of specific invidivuals in its network of agents. And then he recommended that we should turn to the CIA or the FBI for information about what deeds Ames had done in the United States. All U.S. journalists received the same recommendations when they besieged the "public" subdivision of the "secret" organ on Wednesday.

Behind the restraint of the Foreign Intelligence Service spokesman, there doubtless lies a calm reaction, which his colleagues on the other side of the ocean would do well to learn from. According to certain specialists in the intelligence sphere, to launch a spy-mania campaign instead of calmly dealing with their unexpected failures is just bad form. Ultimately, they believe, we are not doing anything that the Americans would not allow themselves to do in Moscow.

This latest case graphically demonstrates that relations between the intelligence services of great powers cannot be entirely "gentlemanly."

Of course, the Americans should have a clearer idea of whom they should arrest and whom they should not arrest in their own country. But among a number of other reasons, the fact that our counterintelligence not so long ago arrested a fairly high-ranking Russian official working for the CIA, as we found out, was not the least important reason.

Imagine that the Ameses really did work for the USSR. This means that the practice of a "tit for tat" response, usual in such cases, came into effect. Let us also recall that the "affair" came out at a time when Russia stunned the world with a specific initiative on Bosnia—which the United States did not like at all, being accustomed to profiting from the amorphousness of our diplomacy over many years now, and constantly trying, little by little, to squeeze us out of the process of the adoption of major foreign policy decisions still further. And suddenly, success, a resolute stance, and the chief role in the Bosnian spectacle, which had been played out for many months

according to the West's musical score. What disappointment for Washington, used to putting our Foreign Ministry in its own pocket!

Finally, if the Ameses do nevertheless turn out to be the people they are represented as today, then let us congratulate not only our diplomats, but also our intelligence service. And, incidentally, ourselves: It turns out that we are not paying it money for nothing for its activity. The money is not being wasted. Somehow we forget about this when we excitedly interview the deserters and betrayers who figure in our press, if not as martyrs to the cause of democracy, then at least as entrepreneurs in the "free market of state secrets."

Foreign Intelligence Chief Ends Visit to Slovakia

LD2402222194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1720 GMT 24 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Demidetskiy]

[Text] Bratislava February 24 TASS—Russian Foreign Intelligence Chief Yevgeniy Primakov ended his visit to Slovakia on Thursday [24 February].

He expressed satisfaction with the results of his talks in Bratislava, adding that both sides reiterated their willingness to develop mutual respectful relations between Russia and Slovakia.

During the visit, Primakov met with the leader of the Slovak Information Service, Vladimir Mitro, other officials to discuss ways to combat organised crime, international terrorism and illegal drug trafficking, as well as the situation in trouble spots.

Asked to comment on the spy scandal involving a senior CIA official, Aldrich Ames, and his wife arrested on charges of spying for the Soviet Union and then Russia for nearly a decade, Primakov replied "no comments," adding "but when I return to Moscow..."

Meets IAEA Chief in Vienna

LD2502111394 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1038 GMT 25 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Chupakhin]

[Text] Vienna, 25 Feb—Yevgeniy Primakov, director of the Russian Federation's Foreign Intelligence Service, who is in Vienna, had a meeting today with Hans Blix, secretary general of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). The conversation touched on topical problems involved in the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons.

Foreign Ministry Spokesman Gives News Briefing

Comments on Ames Affair

LD2402150494 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1405 GMT 24 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondents Aleksandr Krylovich and Vladimir Taranov]

[Text] Moscow, 24 Feb—"All efforts must now be directed toward ensuring that the incident over the arrest of a CIA employee is settled without inflicting any significant political and diplomatic damage either to Russia or the United States". This was stated at a briefing today by Grigoriy Karasin, director of the Information and Press Department of the Russian Federation Foreign Ministry.

"The position of the Russian Federation Foreign Ministry in this question is pretty clear," he stressed. According to the Russian diplomat, the Foreign Ministry had been informed about the story regarding the arrest of a CIA member and his wife through official channels in Washington and Moscow. This whole story raises a great many serious questions that must be carefully and closely studied and analyzed. Clearly, it is the professionals—representatives of the special services of both states—who will play the leading role in this, Karasin noted.

Speaking about the political aspects of the incident, the Foreign Ministry spokesman stressed that here "it is important to avoid overdramatization and extreme political emotions". The Russian side intends to clear up this incident quickly and effectively, Karasin noted in conclusion.

Expects West To Support Bosnian Summit

LD2402175994 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1700 GMT 24 Feb 94

[Text] Grigoriy Karasin, director of the Information and Press Department of the Russian Foreign Ministry, expressed confidence that the West would support the Russian President's idea of holding a meeting with the leaders of the United States, Britain, France, and Germany on the Yugoslav conflict. He stated this during a conversation with journalists in Moscow, RIA reports.

Karasin noted that at present, Russia thinks that the main thing in the search for a settlement in Yugoslavia is not to lose impetus. As has already been reported, this week the Russian president invited the leaders of the United States, Britain, France, and Germany to hold a joint meeting. It should result in the signing of a joint document that would put an end to bloodshed in the former Yugoslavia.

Yeltsin Urges Approval of Additional Troops for Bosnia

LD2402172894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1501 GMT 24 Feb 94

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature: reports by Diplomatic Correspondents Dmitriy Voskoboinikov, Igor Porshnev, Vitaliy Trubetskoy, and others]

[Text] President Yeltsin has urged the Federation Council to endorse the dispatch of an additional military contingent numbering 300 men to join the U.N. peace-keeping forces in former Yugoslavia "with a view to ensuring control over the implementation of an agreement on a peaceful solution to the conflict, and over the unconditional observance of the agreement to cease fire in the area of Sarajevo by the warring sides".

The Russian president made this appeal in connection with a request from the U.N. Secretary General. The relevant draft resolution instructs Russia's government to resolve the issues connected with the forming of a corresponding volunteer military contingent.

The Federation Council decided to consider this issue in the framework of its defence and security committee Friday morning, and discuss it at its evening session the same day.

Seen Backing Away From Summit Proposal

MK2502094094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 25 Feb 94 p 1

[Vladimir Abarinov report under the "Power" rubric: "The Declaration of Rights of a Self-Respecting State. Russia Is Intent on Pursuing its Legitimate Interests 'Firmly and Resolutely'"]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] The foreign policy section of President Yeltsin's message did not contain any surprises for specialists. It was but the quintessence of concepts and formulas that have been road-tested by Russian diplomats at various international forums for some time now. Such as, for instance, the European security and partnership concept, which has just been announced by Andrey Kozyrev in Krakow. Provisions interpreting regional policy principles have also been basically well known. In this sense, the section is not "portentous."

What is striking in it in the first place is the absence in the paragraph devoted to the Balkan crisis of the proposal for a summit of the Group of Five to be convened, a proposal that the Russian president put forward as recently as this week. Presumably, facing an obstructionist stance by its Western partners, Moscow thought it prudent not to press the issue. The other day, your SEGODNYA correspondent happened to hear a conversation between two high-ranking officials from the Foreign Ministry and the presidential administration. The former told his interlocutor that representatives of a number of European countries have been bewildered by the format of the proposed summit: Russia, after all, wants to join the Group of Seven, not the Group of Five. The diplomat suggested that the question of format be left open. So, it cannot be ruled out that the Russian initiative will be repackaged so that it will boil down to the discussion of the Bosnian settlement within the framework of the Group of Seven meeting in Naples. [passage omitted]

Kozyrev on Policy in Bosnia, NATO

LD2402172694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1501 GMT 24 Feb 94

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature: Reports by diplomatic correspondents Dmitriy Voskoboynikov, Igor Porshnev, Vitaliy Trubetskoy, and others]

[Text] Moscow has no intention of taking the side of any party involved in the conflict in former Yugoslavia, said the head of Russian diplomacy, Andrey Kozyrev, upon his return from a trip to Greece, the Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland.

"The essence of Russian initiative is to nudge Bosnia's warring sides toward a peaceful solution to the problem," he told Russian journalists who accompanied him. "Russia must use its historically established ties with the Serbs to nudge them toward dialogue, not to encourage aggression."

The issue of Russia's policy toward the former Eastern bloc countries cropped up more than once during his conversations in European capitals. Kozyrev assured his partners in the talks that Moscow is nurturing no "imperial plans", that it is prepared "to cooperate with everyone on the basis of neighborliness and mutual benefit".

According to him, the intention of Central and East European countries to join NATO is no obstacle to this. "We do not rule out the possibility that Russia will also become part of NATO some time, but today the idea of partnership is of key importance," Kozyrev stressed.

In this context NATO's "Partnership for Peace" program acquires special importance, the head of Russian diplomacy said. "There is a need to create a system of "cross-guarantees" by means of signing corresponding agreements with each European state separately," he said.

Wednesday morning, addressing a conference on the prospects for Russian-Polish relations in Krakow, Kozyrev formulated Russia's concept of European partnership, which provides for transforming the Conference for Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) into an "effective regional political organization, and the North-Atlantic Council for Cooperation into an independent structure of politico-military cooperation closely connected with the CSCE.

When asked about his attitude to the Liberal Democratic Party and its leader, Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, Kozyrev said: "I instructed the Foreign Ministry's press service to neither read what Zhirinovskiy says, nor react to it".

Podoprigora Backs Sending Peacekeepers to Bosnia

LD2502105594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0849 GMT 25 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Lyudmila Yermakova]

[Text] Moscow February 25 TASS—"The use of peacekeeping forces to settle the conflict in Bosnia and Herzegovina is necessary," Vladimir Podoprigora, chairman of the upper chamber committee on international affairs, said in an interview with ITAR-TASS here on Friday.

He noted that he was in the Dniester area where there were hostilities between the Moldovan Government and the breakaway Dniester Republic, and in Nagorno-Karabakh. He also visited other "flash points" in the world and drew the conclusion that it is impossible, as a rule, to settle such conflicts without the participation of peace keepers.

The upper chamber committees on international affairs as well as on security and defence will discuss, at a joint sitting, the question on dispatching an additional military contingent to the U.N. Protection Force in Bosnia.

The committees will debate a request by the U.N. secretary-general addressed to the Russian president to send an additional military contingent to the U.N. Protection Force stationed in Bosnia and Herzegovina in connection with the conclusion of agreements on a peaceful settlement of the conflict and a ceasefire in the Sarajevo zone.

In compliance with the Russian Constitution, the province of the Federation Council (upper chamber of the Russian parliament) includes "the question on possible use of the Russian Armed Forces outside the territory of the Russian Federation".

The preliminary debate on the issue will be conducted by the committees which will submit their proposal to a plenary session of the upper chamber. The Federation Council will debate the question on dispatching an additional military contingent numbering 300 to participate in the U.N. Protection Force to ensure control over the implementation of the agreement on a peaceful settlement of the conflict.

NATO General Praises Training of Troops Sent to Bosnia

LD2402164694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1343 GMT 24 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Gondusov]

[Text] Moscow February 24 TASS—Good military training of Russian commandos shown during their redisposition to the Sarajevo region was highly estimated by NATO generals, deputy supreme commander of the NATO Joint Armed Forces in Europe, General John Waters, who arrived in Moscow on a working visit today, told ITAR-TASS.

The NATO commander who prior to his appointment to a high post in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization headed the land forces in Britain, said he envied his colleague in Bosnia who had received such a powerful and well trained reinforcement.

Speaking on the difficulties connected with the redisposition of the Russian blue helmets, John Waters noted that he knew that Russian commandos' training was passing in much more complex conditions, therefore he would rather be surprised if Russian soldiers and officers had not fulfilled their command's order.

The British General highly appraised Russia's efforts aimed at settling the armed conflict in Bosnia and stressed that the NATO welcomed any step which would stop killing people.

John Waters noted that air strikes, as the events in the Persian Gulf had shown, would have resulted in unjustified victims amongst the civil population.

The general said that additional peacekeeping forces should be brought to the region of confrontation specifying that this problem should be resolved by politicians.

The program of the NATO general's visit to Moscow which will last until February 26, includes his meetings with the leadership of the General Staff of the Russian Armed Forces and the commander-in-chief of the land forces.

John Waters will also deliver several lectures on the theme "The NATO Bloc in a Stage of Transformation" to students and teachers of the Academy of the General Staff, and other institutions of the Russian Defense Ministry.

More on Foreign Ministry Statement on Sarajevo

PM2402112594 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 24 Feb 94 First Edition p 6

[Unattributed report under "Distant Foreign Parts" rubric: "Moscow Calls for Pressure To Be Exerted on the Bosnian Government"]

[Text] Russia is urging the United States and the European Union [EU] to "exert the necessary influence over the Bosnian Government to make it cooperate with the United Nations in the matter of completely unblocking and demilitarizing Sarajevo. [no closing quotation mark as published] This is stated in a Russian Federation Foreign Ministry statement disseminated at the United Nations 22 February as a Security Council document, ITAR-TASS reports.

"In recent days," the document points out, "Russia has undertaken additional efforts to realize its initiative with regard to unblocking Sarajevo and transferring this city to UN control, which it advanced back at the 47th General Assembly Session. We have sought and are seeking to implement this initiative by acting openly within the framework of Security Council resolutions."

It points out that "as a result of the steps taken by the leadership of Russia and intensive diplomatic work, this firm and consistent line, which rules out unilateral ultimatums, has produced a result." "In response to our appeal the Bosnian Serbs adopted a decision at their assembly in Pale to withdraw their heavy arms from the Sarajevo reigon. We reckon that this show of goodwill by one of the sides involved in the conflict at a critical moment for a settlement will elicit equally specific countersteps.... We also urge our partners in the Bosnian settlement—above all, the United States and the EU countries—in the spirit of their statements on the preferability of a political solution to the problem, to exert the necessary influence over the Bosnian Government to make it cooperate with the United Nations in the matter of completely unblocking and demilitarizing Sarajevo," the statement reads.

Russia has proposed that, following the unblocking of Sarajevo, the UN Security Council urgently begin examining ways to establish an administration in this city, as well as measures to strengthen other safe areas on the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Russia's Sarajevo Stance Said 'Masterstroke'

PM2402141594 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 24 Feb 94 p 3

[Commentary by Stanislav Kondrashov: "The Image Russia Has Acquired by Its Sarajevo Presence"]

[Text] Initially it appeared to be merely a protest by an aggrieved Russia, then it assumed the shape of a diplomatic initiative which forestalled a dangerous escalation of the Bosnian conflict.

Initially, Yeltsin, standing next to the British prime minister, sharply stated that Moscow would not allow the Bosnian conflict to be resolved without its involvement; and this came across as a public challenge to NATO, which had resolved to bomb the Serbian artillery around Sarajevo without enquiring about the Russian leadership's opinion. But, one day later, on 17 February, Russia's deft maneuver had resolved the very problem which the NATO countries were intending to tackle by means of combat aircraft on the night of 20-21 February.

It was a masterstroke of diplomacy that, albeit to varying degrees, satisfied everyone: It secured a cease-fire and stopped the multiplication of casualties while humiliating no one, each side being allowed to save face. The Serbs withdrew their heavy armaments but not, as it were, under the pressure of a NATO ultimatum but at the request of their Russian brothers. The West, not without a sense of relief, called off (postponed?) its risky bombing experiment in the Balkans, while the inhabitants of Sarajevo came out on to the streets without fear of shells or mortar projectiles.

And Russia? At a critical moment Russia's new partners had, as it were, assigned it an insignificant role, while it had—in a single move—placed itself at the center of attention. Yes, precisely at that moment Russia found the important and only proper place for itself and played the role which no one else could. Hats off! And, although we are not dealing with a happy end but merely with an episode in a tragedy to which no end is in sight, you cannot fail to be delighted at the skill shown by our country's diplomats, those people who brilliantly prepared the initiative behind the scenes, allowing the Russian president, who sealed the initiative with his assent and signature, to reap the reward.

Such obvious successes in the search for a role and identity are very rare, and for that reason you are doubly delighted that realism mingled with a sense of dignity prevailed, while foreign policy romanticism is disappearing just as its counterpart—market romanticism—has disappeared. They have, by the way, exhibited common traits—an intoxification with the West's prescriptions to the point of losing all sense of proportion and sense of personal identity.

In the case of Yugoslavia this loss occurred when Russia joined in the economic blockade of Serbia, forgetting that history looks different from Moscow, Washington, or Bonn and that it is not the Americans and the Germans but the Russians who would have to pay the price. As a result we lost, I think, in the eyes of the South Slavs more than we did during the period of Stalin's split with Tito's Yugoslavia and the many years of suspicious rejection of a country building its own route to socialism. Thank God, the intolerable nature of that loss was realized pretty quickly—and not without pressure from both moderate and implacable critics in the Supreme Soviet, which has now disappeared into history. And historically strong roots of pragmatism were preserved within the Foreign Ministry. No one has worked so hard as Deputy Minister Vitaliy Churkin in reestablishing our severed links with brother Slavs. The most recent example of Russia's restored position is the friendly reception accorded Russian peacemaking soldiers around Sarajevo.

When speaking about the components of our success, in addition to the foreign elements, it is necessary to highlight the domestic, Russian ones. The foreign elements are obvious and have already been mentioned. The domestic, Russian ones reside in the fact that essentially the whole of Russian society and all political factions—ranging from Gaydar to Zhirinovskiy—have approved what happened. In current times such a consensus is an extraordinarily rare, extraordinarily important, and wholly understandable thing. Not only diplomats but society too needs examples of self-confirmation. Foreign policy begins at home. National interest is developed and guaranteed by a degree of national accord. It is perfectly obvious that in the latest episode in the Bosnian crisis the Russian diplomatic service operated skillfully not just because it put forward a solution which took account of the real situation and position of the direct participants in the conflict but also because (mainly because) it felt support back on the "home front."

And yet until quite recently and quite often more concern was paid to the reaction of our foreign partners. From that perspective, we have also bidden farewell to foreign policy romanticism, which Vladimir Lukin, who was Russian ambassador to the United States and has now been elected chairman of the State Duma Committee for International Affairs, persists in calling—and with reason—"infantile pro-Americanism." Whereas previously the main thing when determining our stance on the Yugoslav question was achieving consensus with the West, for the sake of which we neglected our own public opinion, now, especially since the December elections, pride of place is taken by domestic consensus, which neither the president nor the Foreign Ministry can ignore. Foreign policy, if it is to be sound, must be based on majority support within the country—which is an indispensable rule for democratic states. American, German, British, and other Western diplomats operate within this constraint, accepting it as a fact of life.

Ultimately, whether you approve or even if you don't, it is Russian policy that takes account of Russian interest based on Russian public opinion which is taken seriously.

Hence the respect for Moscow's independent initiative in lifting the siege of Sarajevo, particularly if it also holds out the promise of breaking the deadlock, a deadlock created not without the West's involvement.

Russian Paratroopers Stabilize Sarajevo Situation

PM2402161794 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 24 Feb 94 p 3

[Report by Andrey Baturin and Sergey Gryzunov of RIA NOVOSTI specially for IZVESTIYA: "Meeting Between Serbian General and Russian Colonel Ends According to Orthodox Custom"]

[Text] Belgrade—Sarajevo is returning to normal life after 700 days of blockade. Following the withdrawal of 260 Serb and 47 Muslim artillery pieces and their transfer to the control of the UN peacekeeping forces, the citizens—Muslims, Serbs, and Croats—can wake up without fearing for their lives.

Our paratroopers are installed in the building of a former police school. Their commander, Colonel Viktor Vorobyev, has held a working meeting with General Stanislav Galic, commander of the Sarajevo-Romanija corps, which is keeping its sights on the capital of Bosnia. The discussion concerned the stationing of guys from Ryazan and Pskov on the demarcation line between the Muslim and Serb infantry within the precincts of the city.

As Serb sources reported, the meeting between the Serb general and the Russian colonel ended with "a toast according to the old orthodox custom."

The presence of Vorobyev's men—the weighty argument of the Russian diplomatic initiative—has stabilized the situation around Sarajevo. However, as one of the UN commanders expressed himself, it will not be easy for the peacekeeping forces to maintain an island of peace in a sea of war.

In this connection, it appears that the United Nations will come up against specific difficulties in carrying out the operation to open the airfield in Tuzla, which is scheduled for 7 March. Official sources have reported that air support from NATO forces will be used during the operation if need be. The Serbs are keeping the airfield in the sights of their artillery, suspecting that it may be used not for the delivery of humanitarian aid, but as a new channel for supplying the Muslims with weapons.

Over 1 million civilian inhabitants, mainly Muslims, in Central Bosnia, where Tuzla is located, are waiting desperately for the opening of the airfield. They are disastrously short of food and medicines, the UN Office of High Commissioner for Refugees, has reported from its Sarajevo base.

Meanwhile, in downtown Belgrade, a street musician is endlessly playing Russian tunes on the accordion, hooligans have defaced the French memorial, drawing a swastika on it as revenge for the NATO ultimatum, and Western diplomats and members of their families are quietly getting ready to go back, while local experts analyze the critical situation which has been favorably resolved for all the sides.

The names of Boris Yeltsin and Andrey Kozyrev, to which a number of local publications and activists had pinned labels of the type "betrayers of the Slav peoples and orthodoxy," are being praised to the skies. And those who yesterday were conducting dialogue only with Khasbulatov and Zhirinovskiy, counting on help from Cossacks and secret Russian weapons, are today holding rallies of gratitude outside the Russian Embassy.

Government Options for Radioactive Waste Disposal Viewed

LD2402165694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1421 GMT 24 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Veronika Romanenkova]

[Text] Moscow February 24 TASS—If facilities for recycling liquid radioactive waste is not built in Russia's Far East within the next two months, Russia will possibly have to dump this waste in the Sea of Japan again in order to avert an ecological disaster.

A choice whether to build the appropriate recycling facilities estimated at about 10 million dollars or to dump the waste in the sea is to be made by the Russian Government, according to Viktor Kutsenko, head of the Russian Ministry for Environmental Protection and Natural Resources' Department for Ecological Safety. He also said the government was presently considering a request from the ministry to immediately solve the issue of waste disposal.

Taking into account the current financial difficulties and therefore uncertainty over the recycling facilities project, Russia did not join the London convention on a complete ban on dumping radioactive and industrial wastes in the seas, which took effect from February 21.

Not acceding to the convention, Russia is losing politically, believes Valeriy Chelyukanov, a senior official at the Russian Federal Service for Hydrometeorology and Environment Monitoring. However, from the point of view of ecological safety, this decision was fully justified. If something happens to the tanker overloaded with liquid radioactive waste, which is now at moorage in the Zolotoy Rog bay near Vladivostok, the environment and people's health will be heavily damaged.

Waste dumping in the sea does not threaten a catastrophe. A high-speed tanker dumps its load in the open sea, and the wastes are instantly dissolved in the water. Taking into consideration the present radioactive contamination of the Sea of Japan, "Russia's supplement" will be negligible and not cause any damage for the environment.

Adamishin, Japanese Official Meet, Discuss G-7

LD2402195194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1705 GMT 24 Feb 94

[Text] Russian First Deputy Foreign Minister Anatoliy Adamishin and Japanese Deputy Foreign Minister Hiroshi Fukuda, who met in Moscow Wednesday, expressed the desire of both countries to expand political and other contacts and to improve the atmosphere of partnership, confidence and good neighborly relations.

According to Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman Grigoriy Karasin, Russia's joining the G-7 group of most advanced countries would open up new vistas for cooperation in international issues.

He told journalists that the Japanese official wanted to have a better insight into the political situation in Russia. "Unambiguous remarks made by President Boris Yeltsin and Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin were quoted to show that Russia will stay on the reform course," Karasin said.

Commentary on Vice Ministerial Talks With Japan

OW2502021194 Moscow Radio Moscow in Japanese 1100 GMT 23 Feb 94

[Commentary by Moscow Radio commentator Yuriy Afonin]

[Text] Russia-Japan vice foreign ministerial talks were held on 21 and 22 February, with working-level meetings also held under the framework of the talks.

At the talks, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Panov and Japanese Deputy Foreign Minister Fukuda exchanged wide-ranging views on international issues and the situation in the Asia-Pacific region, and discussed bilateral issues. At the talks they also discussed future steps the two countries should take to conclude a peace treaty, and ways to resolve bilateral issues. Moscow Radio commentator Yuriy Afonin comments on the outcome of the talks:

[Begin recording] The talks drew a great deal of attention in both Russia and Japan because they were held to exchange views between the two countries for the first time since President Yeltsin visited Japan. The world is now faced with many important issues. One of the issues is the Russian parliamentary elections that resulted in concerns over Russia's future foreign policy. At the talks, both sides affirmed the validity of an agreement that was signed by the leaders of Russia and Japan when President Yeltsin visited Japan last October. In other words, both sides affirmed a genuine partnership between the two countries. With the Moscow talks, Russia-Japan political dialogue has now entered a new stage and set the future direction of Russia-Japan relations. At the talks both sides agreed in principle that Foreign Minister Hata will visit Russia in March this year to hold talks with his Russian counterpart in accordance with a Tokyo Declaration provision on the revitalization of political dialogue between the two countries. The schedule for Foreign Minister Hata's visit to Russia is to be decided through diplomatic channels.

It can be said that preparations have now begun for improving Russia-Japan relations. At the talks, both sides agreed to hold a meeting of the Intergovernmental Cooperation Committee on Economy, Science and Technology in April, at the earliest. The talks focused on discussion of ways to conclude a peace treaty. The two countries should consistently take steps toward resolving bilateral issues in order to normalize their relations. The two countries also should cooperate closely in deepening mutual understanding between their people, and in creating a good environment in the two countries. The two countries will prepare proposals aimed at reaching agreement on certain issues when Foreign Minister Hata visits Russia. The closeness and similarity of the two countries' positions on international matters and issues in the Asia-Pacific region are of great significance to the future of relations between Russia and Japan. This will serve to expand their cooperation in the United Nations and the international community, just as they cooperated in Cambodia.

There are many common positions between Russia and Japan on the issue of the Korean peninsula. The two countries will also attend a conference on ASEAN security in Bangkok in July this year. At the Moscow talks, both sides agreed on a common approach to the issue of security in the Asia-Pacific region. It can be said that the Russia-Japan vice foreign ministerial talks took a concrete step toward strengthening the relations of trust between the two countries.

These are my comments on the on-going Russia-Japan dialogue. [end recording]

Japanese Leaks of Yeltsin, Chernomyrdin Speeches Cited

LD2402122794 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 24 Feb 94 p 1

[Sergey Agafonov report: "Yeltsin and Chernomyrdin Have Not Yet Made Their Speeches, but the Japanese Already Know What They Will Say"]

[Text] Tokyo—While the Russian audience waits impatiently to find out what the statesmen will say to it and what will happen next in our unpredictable life, foreign impatience along the same lines is already assuaged—this is an interesting natural law that is currently being observed.

The latest confirmation of this is the news "double" just seen in Japan—YOMIURI SHIMBUN has informed the Japanese about what Yeltsin intends to say in his message to parliament at the end of the month, and KYODO has told them where Chernomyrdin will be leading the country when he presents the new budget.

The Japanese agency got its hands on a copy of the speech which Prime Minister Chernomyrdin is expected to deliver soon in parliament. According to the document acquired by the Japanese, the Russian head of government will announce a strengthening of state control of the economy, prices, and the process of the economic management of enterprises. At the same time Chernomyrdin will declare his intention to continue the reforms, but he will emphasize that, if need be, the state will intervene actively in economic matters. Price control will be revived in sectors where state enterprises dominate. This control is expected to entail enterprises' signing price agreements on government recommendations. Apart from that, enterprises will be obliged to coordinate with the government the price levels for their output, the level of wages, and ways in which the profit obtained will be disposed of. This coordination will be a basic condition for enterprises to receive state subsidies and credits. As far as privatization

is concerned, Chernomyrdin will promise to continue it but will note that, when it leads to increased prices, the need for a monopolized market will remain.

As the Japanese, now familiar with a document that has yet to be delivered, are observing, in general the premier's report stresses that the reforms will continue, the planned economy is not being revived, and what is intended is merely a question of strengthening elements of state administrative control which, in fact, are routine throughout the rest of the world. With the help of these elements Chernomyrdin will promise to knock inflation down to a level of 7-9 percent by the end of the year.

For the uninformed it is interesting to know that in his future speech the Russian president will devote a whole paragraph in the section on international policy to relations with Japan. As YOMIURI reports, citing reliable sources close to the president in Moscow, there are as many as five different versions of this paragraph. All of them note that Russia and Japan must develop mutual relations, particularly in the economic sphere, basing themselves on agreements reached during Boris Yeltsin's visit to Tokyo last year. The differences among the five versions are small in principle and concern the formulation of the most delicate question in bilateral relations—the territorial question. Moscow sources have revealed to YOMIURI that in some versions the territorial question is not mentioned at all, in others it is not mentioned "by name," while in the most "specific" version it is designated as existing but linked to Russian domestic difficulties. The sources stated in addition that Russia cannot neglect relations with Japan but that the president's speech will, as far as possible, give the subject short shrift in order not to "upset nationalists at home."

In short, Tokyo is already studying our leaders' upcoming speeches while we here continue to follow Russian events through foreign sources. News here is clearly fresher and more up to date....

Political Issues

Reaction to Duma Decision on Amnesty for Prisoners

Court Says Yeltsin Lacks Veto Authority

LD2402173494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1502 GMT 24 Feb 94

A Russian Constitutional Court source said the president has neither the authority nor the moral right to veto the amnesty resolution passed by the State Duma, the lower house of parliament.

The source, who asked not to be identified, told Interfax that, under the Constitution, the resolution is not subject to approval by either the upper house of the legislature or the president. The resolution is thus definitive and cannot be revised, but theoretically it can be checked by the Constitutional Court, the source said.

Defendants To Decide on Amnesty

LD2402224194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1705 GMT 24 Feb 94

[Text] Deputy of the Council of Federation, one of the defendants in the State of Emergency Committee case told Interfax on Thursday that all those accused on that case will take a joint decision whether they will take advantage of the amnesty declared by the State Duma the day before.

"Neither I, nor my comrades, have not committed any crime in August of 1991. We were defending the Constitution of the USSR and trying to rescue the country from collapse and death. An amnesty is applied to criminals, and we are not criminals," Starodubtsev said.

At the same time, he called the State Duma resolution on the amnesty "a courageous step" showing that "the Duma will not be obedient."

Prisoner Release Delayed

LD2402202894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1901 GMT 24 Feb 94

[Text] Those arrested for their part in the Moscow riots of October 3 and 4 will not be released tonight.

The attorneys of some of them told Interfax that the investigators explained the delay by saying that the State Duma decision to declare amnesty on February 23 had to be first published in newspapers. Only then will they show the text to the accused and ask if they accept the amnesty.

Numerous attorneys do not rule out the possibility that some of the detainees who do not feel they are guilty of organizing riots will reject the offer of release. Under the existing legislation those charged with criminal offenses are pardoned by the state but are not rehabilitated for their activities which are regarded as criminal by the investigators.

Larisa Dementyeva, the attorney of Aleksandr Barkashov, leader of the Russian National Unity, said that her client would most probably agree to be pardoned. She emphasized Barkashov was in poor health following several surgeries for a wound he had received last December. He is now in the medical ward of Matrosskaya Tishina investigating prison and will most probably be hospitalized Friday.

Dmitry Shteinberg, the attorney of former security minister Viktor Barannikov, told Interfax that his client had left the hospital for home. He had undertaken not to leave the city. The doctors insist that he is too sick to be questioned.

Meanwhile, the Izvestiya daily reports that Vyacheslav Kostikov, Russian president's press secretary, said outside the Federal Assembly hall Thursday that nobody will leave Lefortovo or Matrosskaya Tishina prisons in the coming weeks, if not months. He described the amnesty as immoral because the detainees had blood on their hands.

Defendants Awaiting Text of Decree

LD2402154894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1517 GMT 24 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Olga Colodova]

[Text] Moscow February 24 TASS—Aleksandr Barkashov, leader of the Russian National Unity Nazi-inspired organisation, will not refuse the amnesty offered by the State Duma (the lower chamber of the Russian parliament) on Wednesday, if it applies to him. Barkashov's men took an active part in the hard-line revolt last October. ITAR-TASS learned of Barkoshov's intentions on Thursday through his lawyer, Larisa Dementyeva.

Dementyeva also announced that, according to Article Five of the criminal procedural code of the Russian Federation, "The application of an amnesty should not depend on whether or not the accused has confessed to the charges filed against him".

The lawyers of other participants in the October 3-4 events refused, when asked by ITAR-TASS, to make any statements until they receive the official text of the anmesty from the State Duma. Procurator-General of Russia Aleksey Kazannik has promised to distribute the text to the concerned defenders as soon as it is forwarded to his office.

Aides View Amnesty, Yeltsin Address

PM2402172994 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 25 Feb 94 p 1

[Report by Vasiliy Kononenko: "Federal Assembly Restrained in Its Response to Message. Tension Increases Between Branches of Authority"]

[Text] Russian Federation President B. Yeltsin was on the platform for exactly 50 minutes, addressing the deputies of both chambers of the Federal Assembly. His report "On Strengthening the Russian State" was listened to in silence and the response to it was one of restraint.

The various political forces represented in parliament had no illusions about the power of the president's message to bring about creative work and accord. They were still feeling the impact of the previous day's decision by the State Duma on an amnesty for those responsible for the August putsch and the October revolt.

This was the sole topic of conversation in the Kremlin before the session of the two chambers opened. Here are some pronouncements on the topic.

G. Zyuganov, leader of the communists' faction:

"If the president's team and the government fail to see that the State Duma's amnesty decision points the way to national accord and reconciliation, too bad for them. We are on the brink of mass strikes. The economic crisis is assuming catastrophic proportions. Therefore the task now is to take steps toward reconciliation. The amnesty should be followed by a treaty with Belarus. We must make an approach to Ukraine and restore all links with Kazakhstan."

Describing the president's message, G. Zyuganov said: "The president has now promulgated 15 programs, but none of them has been implemented. I do not expect any constructive actions from the president and government. Our approach is an immediate change of economic course and the formation of a government of national confidence on condition that Chubays and Kozyrev leave it. If confrontation on the part of the executive authority continues, those who signed the agreement in the Belovezhskaya Forest will be quitting the political arena this very year."

Presidential Press Secretary V. Kostikov also returned to the Duma's amnesty decision.

"No doubt there is now going to be a war of legal interpretations of the State Duma decision," he said, "since, under the Constitution, it can declare an amnesty but it cannot adopt a decision on it. No one will be leaving Lefortovo or Matrosskaya Tishina in the next few weeks or months. Moreover, this decision is immoral, since those in detention were directly involved in the bloodshed. It is clear that there is a bloc of communists and neofascists in the Duma with practically no difference between them."

Journalists were particularly interested in the view of Russian Federation General Prosecutor A. Kazannik. He said that the organs of the prosecutor's office are not concerned with politics, and that "We are in the business of ensuring compliance with the law, and we are obliged to apply the decision of the competent state organs. When it is published we will study it and will familiarize each of the accused with the report. If they accept the State Duma's amnesty decision, I will rule that the criminal case against this or that individual be dropped."

But despite this dramatic news, which the Duma served up precisely on the eve of the president's policy statement, there were nonetheless optimistic tones regarding the president's message:

Interviewed by your IZVESTIYA correspondent, the well-known economist P. Bunich said:

"The president faced a difficult task: He had to talk about everything in a 50-minute speech, missing out none of the problems that society regards as explosive. His tact is to be welcomed—he did not react to the State Duma's decision. It is not the place to talk about it. As for the very important, economic section of the message, the president's confirmation of the continuation of the course of reforms begun in 1992 can be regarded as the key feature. The second thing of importance mentioned by the president is that he does not take his lead from those who advocate strong state authority, from the report of the 'Soviet academics.' Proposals by the president on, for example, freezing prices, pay, the rouble rate, and so on might have signaled his support for the course propagandized by them."

Former finance minister B. Fedorov told your IZVESTIYA correspondent:

"Certainly, one must welcome the president's statement of the danger that the current Cabinet of Ministers might boost inflation. Nonetheless, everything will depend on the practical implementation of the measures indicated by the president."

Gaydar Foresees Exacerbation of Conflict

LD2502105094 London ITV Television Network in English 1900 GMT 24 Feb 94

[Interview with former Prime Minister Yegor Gaydar by Jon Snow; Gaydar in Moscow, Snow in London; from the "Channel 4 News" program—recorded]

[Text] [Snow] Well, I've been talking to Yegor Gaydar, who until January was Mr. Yeltsin's deputy prime minister. He was the force behind many of Mr. Yeltsin's early economic reforms and is still a leading member of the Russian parliament. I started by asking him what signal he felt the amnesty was giving.

[Gaydar] It's a very, very bad signal for the Russian public opinion. When people who had committed this type of activities were being free again for the activity, it is a very serious signs that the state is weak, that the criminals could proceed with this type of subversive activities. It is of course very bad signal for their supporters. I am almost sure that they will try to organize once again their provocation in Moscow during the spring, or the autumn of the year 94.

[Snow] Where do you think that will lead?

[Gaydar] I think that it will lead to the intensification of the social and political conflict, and I could not exclude the possibilities of a very drastic confrontation like we have seen, for instance, in October of the year 93, or in August of the year 91 in Moscow.

[Snow] Therefore do you think that Mr. Yeltsin is responding correctly to what is happening?

[Gaydar] Well, Mr. Yeltsin's possibilities under Constitution are limited. Parliament generally is in its own rights. This decision does not need the confirmation of the president, or upper chamber. But of course this solution is very, very serious threat to the stability of the country and I think that the president will take it in mind.

[Snow] But then that means that the man that you were serving right up until five weeks ago is himself now in a very, very weak position. He has a parliament that is against him, that is allowing still more of his enemies out into free circulation, and the outlook for his own survival must not be good.

[Gaydar] Well, of course, the position of the president are much stronger than they were for instance in September of the year 93. Now he has constitutional rights that clarifies very definitely his possibilities with dealings with internal policies. Except the amnesty, the rights of Duma to act without the agreement of the president are rather limited. Of course we are in a very difficult political situation, but if you compare for instance with the situation of September of the year 93, I would not agree with the fact that it's more difficult.

[Snow] If that internal battle does express itself in civil war, how will the forces be arrayed? How do you see this awful conflict mapping out?

[Gaydar] Well, to tell you truth, during my two-year political career, I never answered a question with an if included in it.

[Snow] Nevertheless you've had to put your neck out a little today, by saying that you are so concerned about what happened yesterday that you do foresee serious conflict?

[Gaydar] Well, I mean that the risk that internal political struggle in Russia will not be held in the limits of the existing democratic Constitution, from my point of view, seriously increased after the yesterday solution of the parliament.

[Snow] And that leaves Mr. Yeltsin, and people like yourself who believe in reform on one side, and perhaps, Zhirinovskiy and those people who have been in jail teaming up together?

[Gaydar] I couldn't exclude it absolutely. You have seen yesterday, the big parliamentary coalition which supported this solution. This coalition included the forces from Zhirinovskiy to the communists to the factions that previously were regarded as the centrists, and of course I could not exclude the possibilities that this will be the real line of the division in the political battles in Russia during the year 94-95.

[Snow] What should the West's reaction be? Simply go on putting more money in where necessary, or should we be taking some other stance?

[Gaydar] Well, first of all, let us understand very clearly that it is the Russian internal affairs. And the possibilities of the West to influence the events are rather limited. It is first of all our internal battle and we will have to fight it first of all ourselves.

Sobchak Says Decision 'Unacceptable'

LD2402221294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1502 GMT 24 Feb 94

[Text] St. Petersburg's Mayor Anatoliy Sobchak has called "totally unacceptable and unlawful" the Duma's decision on political amnesty. He told an Interfax interviewer in Moscow on Thursday that "it is possible to pardon those who have pleaded guilty to a crime only after the court's verdict."

Politically, Sobchak believes, "this is a challenge and the desire to make the president, government, and all democrats accept what was done as an accomplished fact." "It's not merely a political challenge but a desire to prepare a new show down of strength," he remarked.

"The farce that has been continuing at the trial of the State of Emergency Committee Members and the attempt to let those who have the blood of many people on their hands and who openly called for an armed rebellion, get away with it, all this is sad."

In Sobchak's words, the Duma "has so far been demonstrating total impotence on the issues it ought to address according to the Constitution." Although the country faces lots of problems, although the taxation legislation, penal code, and other laws need to be amended, deputies in the lower house of parliament have never tried to debate a single bill.

"How much has been said and written about corruption, while such a crime is unknown in Russia's penal code—Sobchak said. And since corruption is taken for granted, there is no one to persecute for it. That's what the Duma should deal with."

In Sobchak's words, he has not been surprised by the position of the Liberal Democrats and Communists during the political amnesty debates in parliament. "But the stand of many others, Sergey Shakhray (the leader of the faction from the Russian Unity and Concord Party) included, is staggering, he declared. People calling themselves democrats stab democracy in the back."

Legislative Official Views Resolution

LD2402181994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1705 GMT 24 Feb 94

[Text] A resolution on political and economic amnesty adopted by the State Duma does not require any additional document on the procedure of its implementation, chairman of the State Duma's legislative committee Vladimir Isakov told Interfax on Thursday.

He reminded that, according to the resolution, all cases related to the August 19-21, 1991, May 1, September 21-October 4, 1993, in Moscow "should be immediately stopped."

In the opinion of Isakov, "the State Duma should issue a separate resolution or explain the mechanism of the implementation of the amnesty resolution in one of its provisions." In this connection, he believes that all persons involved in the the State of Emergency Committee, the May and October events of 1993, "should be released, as it is indicated in the State Duma resolution, immediately after its official publication."

In the meantime, the deputy chairman of the State Duma committee on security Vikor Mirnov claims that the State Duma resolution on political and economic amnesty "does not have any judicial consequences."

In his opinion, the amnesty resolution was adopted in violation of the procedural rules, because it was not put on vote twice, first for the basics and then for the whole document, as required.

Mironov thinks that the amnesty resolution will not be carried out, "the Communists and Zhirinovskiy supporters will not achieve their goals, and Rutskoy, Khasbulatov and other people involved in the October events will not be released."

The deputy pointed out that he had voted against that document because he did not want "a civil war to be unleashed." In his opinion, "there are people interested in the release of Rutskoy, Khasbulatov, Anpilov, Terekhov, so that after the release they like dogs gnaw through a road for them to power."

Hearing for Putchists Postponed to 1 Mar

LD2402164194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1604 GMT 24 Feb 94

[By CRIME PRESS correspondent Yuriy Shcherban]

[Text] Moscow February 24 TASS—Another hearing on the case of those involved in the abortive coup, fixed for February 25, has been put off till March 1. This decision is not connected with the State Duma's resolution on amnesty for participants in the August 1991 events, adopted on Wednesday, CRIME PRESS learned from the military collegium of the Russian Supreme Court. The hearing was put off because of the continued illness of the wife of defendant Vasiliy Starodubtsev. She is in an intensive care unit of a hospital after a stroke.

Luzhkov Expresses Mixed Views of Yeltsin Address

LD2402164994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1145 GMT 24 Feb 94

[Text] The President's message to parliament is an absolutely new form of political life in Russia, Moscow's Mayor Yuriy Luzhkov told Interfax.

I believe, said Luzhkov, there are two important problems in the message: the combating of crime and the stabilization of the economy. These two problems must be solved as early as possible and to do so available forces should be used efficiently.

The Mayor said he was completely unsatisfied by the words said by the president about privatization.

The problem should have had more emphasis in the message. The state has received nothing from the voucher privatization campaign: neither money nor a new owner. The completion of the campaign means a failure for the Russian economy, said Luzhkov.

The Moscow Mayor believes that the president did right when in his message he spoke about the protection of the Russian-speakers in the CIS countries.

I have just returned from Sevastopol and I am alarmed by the fact that the forceful "Ukrainization" of the Russians is taking place there. There are 75 percent of Russians living in the city. I intend to report to the president about this, he said.

The Moscow Mayor said that if in such historically Russian cities as Sevastopol and Narva, Russian residents are being forced to take on an alien life style, culture, language and their rights are infringed upon, the problem could develop from a diplomatic one to one with grave social and political consequences.

Rutskoy's 'People's Alliance' Party Makes Plans

MK2402122094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 24 Feb 94 p 2

[Yelena Tregubova report under the "Conspiracies" rubric: "'Neo-Centrists' Promise Repetition of October-64, but Aleksandr Rutskoy Will Not Be Their Direct Leader"]

[Text] Should the president fail to see to it that Aleksandr Rutskoy is immediately released from jail right on the heels of the Duma amnesty decree, the latter "will be assured of a martyr image which would lead to corresponding consequences," one of the organizers of the "neo-centrist" bloc "People's Alliance" told SEGODNYA. Although the "Alliance" has already been dubbed "Rutskoy's presidential party," the activist, who asked not to be identified by name "because of a gentlemen's agreement with comrades," said that Aleksandr Rutskoy is seen as leader "only prospectively," but generally "he is not going to matter."

Over several months of efforts to create the "Alliance" the organizers did manage to keep their part of the bargain in the "gentlemen's agreement" and to ensure a certain secrecy of the project. Only one of the technical organizers—former Supreme Soviet member Andrey Golovin—spilled the beans, saying that its "founders" were virtually all the participants in what have of late become traditional "centrist 'roundtables'" in the Gorbachev Fund—among them Valeriy Zorkin, ex-chairman of the Constitutional Court; Aleksandr Tsipko, a Gorbachev Fund expert; and ex-deputy Oleg Rumyantsev, "who worked in the White House till the end." Organizers decline to name their other comrades-in-arms, pleading that "too important names" are involved.

Andrey Golovin said that the "charter fund" of the new organization alone "is a matter of tens of millions of dollars." Valeriy Khomyakov, who resigned as Democratic Party of Russia executive committee chairman, voiced a guess that "Tsipko of the Gorbachev Fund is not present there for nothing."

The abovementioned activist agreed to give a "general outline" of the organization's immediate plans: "We already have in place the structure and theoretical tenets, and we are going over to practical actions. I promise that everybody will hear about the 'Alliance' in three to four weeks from now." "The decisive moment," according to him, has been slated for late March and early April. He vouched, however, that "there would no longer be blood, and whatever happens will follow the October 1964 scenario." Recall that there was a peaceful party coup during the 1964 party plenum in October when Nikita Khrushchev was ousted as a result of an internal conspiracy by his closest comrades in arms.

Gaydar Outlines Plans for Democratic Party

PM2402151194 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 24 Feb 94 First Edition p 2

[Interview with former First Deputy Premier Yegor Gaydar by Vladimir Kuzmishchev; place and date not given: "Yegor Gaydar: All Sober-Minded People Must Unite in the Face of Danger"]

[Text] [Kuzmishchev] Yegor Timurovich, information in the mass media on your party building is rather contradictory. I understand, for example, that you have not found a common language with the leaders of "Democratic Russia...."

[Gaydar] Of course, it is a complex process to find a common language among democrats, who do constitute, let us say, a specific milieu; but the organizational mechanism which we have proposed has, on the whole, been supported and will be realized. The "Russia's Choice" faction has come up with an appeal on the need to create a political party which will be able to become the democratic movement's reliable mainstay in the complex political clashes which await us over the next two years and on which a way out of the present indeterminate, intermediate situation will depend. There are two of them—either restoration, or the continuation of the reforms.

This appeal was discussed at two major forums held Saturday in the council of the "Russia's Choice" movement and in the council of "Democratic Russia." The "Russia's Choice" Council supported the faction's initiative and proposed that its regional organizations assist in creating the party. "Democratic Russia" discussed our proposal in detail, and various viewpoints were expressed, but in the end they nonetheless agreed to give "Democratic Russia's" regional organizations the opportunity to decide on the spot, proceeding from their own conditions. This accords with our programs and principles, since in creating the new party we will not rely on the bases of existing structures but will build the party on the basis of people's individual choice.

[Kuzmishchev] In other words, will those political figures who have become familiar and even odious and who, nevertheless, automatically end up seated at the presidium table in democratic meetings not necessarily occupy leading places in this party?

[Gaydar] Quite right. You can always gather together 10 or 100 chance people who would go and vote for you today and convince them that you are a great democratic figure, even if you do not have an ounce of authority left. If you have created an understandable and structured organization with a fixed membership, then that organization already has the opportunity to decide for itself what leaders it needs.

[Kuzmishchev] At the word "party" people recall "democratic centralism," above all. Moreover, historians know that dictatorship came into being not in 1918 but in 1903, when the Leninist principle of party building was adopted. Will you have anything like that?

[Gaydar] We are, of course, trying to build a party not of a totalitarian but a parliamentary type, i.e. a party geared not to full and comprehensive control of society but to efficient political campaigning and measures, striving to implement a policy which we consider feasible within the framework of the Constitution and existing legislation.

[Kuzmishchev] How, then, will the party differ from "Russia's Choice"? Even now the faction votes uniformly.

[Gaydar] We propose quite clear and definite discipline in implementing jointly adopted decisions. As in Western parliamentary parties. It is possible to debate endlessly and champion your own viewpoint and yet implement jointly adopted decisions in practical work. This is not some amorphous formation like what exists now, when the position can change any day depending on who has made himself today's leader. It is a broad association of people who share common views and fears, who work together, and who shape and implement decisions together. There has never been anything like this in the democratic movement.

[Kuzmishchev] How will your organizational principle differ from, let us say, that of Travkin's party?

[Gaydar] In principle not at all. Any party is a mechanism for realizing political power. Precisely because we are countering today not only Travkin's party but the perfectly capable and regrown Communist Party with its strong structure in the provinces, with a large aktiv and with established traditions of party work and propaganda and our national socialists' quite rigid organization which, although still weak, is rapidly taking shape, we must counter them not with a friable and uncoordinated association of democrats but with a quite efficient organization. It is like a rifle, you know: It is identically made, but shoots at different targets.

[Kuzmishchev] An argument is taking place in the Democratic Party, as in the past between Martov and Lenin: Must a party member work within an organization, or is it sufficient to share ideas?

[Gaydar] This question will ultimately be decided by the party's constituent congress. But we believe, nonetheless, that we are building a party of the parliamentary type, and so such rigid demands are hardly applicable.

[Kuzmishchev] Why do people call you the presidential party? You know, this does not always produce political capital.

[Gaydar] It is a case of inaccurate interpretation. Very many people hastened to imagine a party of chiefs headed by the president. As far as I understand it, the president simply has no intention of creating such a party. It was a question of creating capable, organized structures which can implement a policy of reforms.

[Kuzmishchev] What if the party achieves success and becomes the ruling party?

[Gaydar] It will not supplant the state.

In the traditional Soviet society it was a question not just of the election-winning Communist Party's placing its own representatives in various posts, as is done in any normal democratic state, but of the party's essentially turning the state into a scarecrow, into some ritual mechanism existing in order to implement the decisions adopted by the party. The party not only appointed the minister but also decided who must be his deputy, head of department, etc. This was a party of the totalitarian type. We, of course, have no need of such a party.

[Kuzmishchev] A party means a structure, money, and ideology. In my view, things are difficult for you with the latter. You say: We will create an economy which, in the final analysis, will itself resolve all problems. People remember that they were once promised: Communism will be achieved, and then everything will be good....

[Gaydar] In actual fact, the essence of what we propose consists in limiting the state burden and the burden of officialdom in every possible way for society. Our opponents say: If there is a problem, the state must solve it. This means in practice that they will put 1,000 more officials in place and give them the opportunity to share several trillion rubles. You will pay taxes, and the officials will extort them and decide to whom to give money and to whom not to give it. This is what our opponents propose. Our position is the direct opposite. We do not promise manna from heaven; we promise something else—a society in which the official will not have the right to decide which enterprise will prosper and which will not, depending on who has given him a bribe; a society in which the official will merely keep an eye on compliance with the laws.

[Kuzmishchev] But more specific proposals are also needed. In my view, unless you elaborate program decisions on the protection of the Russian population in the neighboring countries, you will find it hard to compete with Zhirinovskiy, let us say, who has made the national question his trump card.

[Gaydar] In 1992, when we did not in actual fact have our own monetary unit and there was no separation of our economic area, everybody despised us. Why should I supply anything to Russia, why should I seek entry to the Russian market if I can print money? We were forced to run and plead: Please send meat to us in Moscow. Ukraine said: Why should we feed you? That was what happened, and that is what we are being pushed toward today.

In 1991 Crimea together with all of Ukraine had voted to pull out precisely because there was chaos in Russia, precisely because we were not separated by anything and had no tool of influence. Crimea votes differently today precisely because we have been separated. Either we have an efficient Russian economy with its own money, when people reckon with us and stand in line wishing to cooperate with us, and then we have the opportunity to uphold the rights of Russians in the neighboring countries by economic methods; or we mess up this whole business, and then we ask in bewilderment why Russians are being offended.

[Kuzmishchev] What did those Russians who graduated from Saratov Polytechnical Institute and were sent to Dnepropetrovsk or Karaganda do wrong? Why has big politics turned them into second-class people? How can Russia help them?

[Gaydar] Of course they did nothing wrong. The question is: What is to be done? The most important thing that we can do is to have a competent Russian economy, because then we will be able to secure dual citizenship for them, we can welcome them home, if that is what they want, and we can hold talks and conclude an agreement on a common economic zone and create a customs union and, in time, a currency union. We can make Russia the center of the common economic area which is being formed.

[Kuzmishchev] Your opponents also favor a single emission center....

[Gaydar] Well, that is not a bad political move on their part: to appropriate the idea for which they criticized us, for which we struggled, and which we implemented....

[Kuzmishchev] Yegor Timurovich, what would you say to people far removed from politics if, as they say in advertising, you had 30 seconds?

[Gaydar] Today we must be conscious of the rigid need to unite all sober-minded people precisely because a sense of a real historical danger has come about once again. All people feel and understand this. They also see the gleam in the eyes of the Communists, who have forgotten nothing and renounced nothing. They also see the triumphal self-confidence of the national socialists. In general this is dreadful for normal people, who simply think about themselves and their children. There are two reactions here: either panic or, nonetheless, a courageous decision to counter this real and very serious threat.

We are struggling for our country's future. We do not want to see it a totalitarian state with camps, with no signs of human freedom, with lines, with shortages, with humiliations before chiefs. In fact we see our country free, with everyone having the right to his own opinion, to choose, to vote, and to decide the country's future and the opportunity to work and earn.

Media Issues

Paper Charges Discrimination by Press Service

MK2502090094 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 25 Feb 94 p 1

["NG" report under the "In Brief" rubric: "President's Press Service Obstructs Performance of NG Correspondents' Professional Duties"]

[Text] Boris Yeltsin's address in the Kremlin yesterday said among other things that the authority "should not fence itself off from the mass media." One wishes that the president would utter these words before the chiefs of his own press service. The work of NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA [NG] correspondents has been constantly impeded throughout the recent year at all events participated in by the president. In plain terms, they are simply denied accreditation at these events; this was also the case when the president addressed parliament. The boilerplate explanation is—no room. In the meantime, room is always there for the press service's pet editions.

While Kostikov's and Krasikov's business is to choose their own pets, NG is not pushing to be among them. But that this policy is discriminatory toward NG is obvious to us. Many of our journalists had been told without mincing words—quit NEZAVISIMAYA, and you'll get your accreditation. Kostikov, as everybody could hear during the president's recent press conference in the Kremlin, was not too fastidious in advising the NG correspondent loud and clear and in public to leave the newspaper. One would have thought he had specially prepared this ad lib in advance for the presidential press conference, putting aside all other affairs.

For us, these are usual difficulties we could and would be able to overcome. In particular, NG was the only Russian newspaper to have given in its 22 February issue a precise account of the main points of the presidential message. The behavior of the president's press service has not only transcended the bounds of human decency, but also seriously violates the professional rights of NG journalists granted us, not by Kostikov and Krasikov, but by the law for which NG was fighting when neither were at the president's side. We are going to uphold these rights. For the time being, by making public the facts we know. Further on, perhaps, also in the Arbitration Information Court instituted by the Russian Federation president.

But it hardly pays once again to play, via publications close to the court, the NG-small-circulation card. Or else we are going to make public the real circulations of all favorite dailies and weeklies of the press service.

Radio, TV Association Suspended

MK2502085094 Moscow MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS in Russian 25 Feb 94 p 1

[Unattributed report under the "Hold the Front Page!" rubric: "Federation Council Does Not Act Telegenically"]

[Text] The head of the Federation Council staff has directed that the operation of the International Association of Radio and Television [IART], based in the former House of the Russian Press, be discontinued.

Association employees who reported to work yesterday were not admitted into the building by security. They had their passes seized and were advised to take it easy until 1 March (when the Federation Council winds up its work), explaining that entry was denied them for their own safety. The employees were even barred from making sure their studio, with equipment worth more than 150 million rubles, was quite safe. The Federation Council apparatus does not seem to worry about how dozens of Association members up and down the CIS are going to get programming and how much IART losses will be—chiefs of the Association cannot get any answer out of it.

Federal Assembly

Committees Recommend Sending More Troops to Bosnia

LD2502111494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1049 GMT 25 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Lyudmila Yermakova]

[Text] Moscow February 25 TASS—The Committee for Defence and Security and the Committee for International Affairs of the Council of the Federation, the upper chamber of the Russian parliament, have recommended the latter to agree to send an additional 300-man military contingent to reinforce the U.N. peace-keeping forces in the Sarajevo zone, as requested by the Russian president.

This decision was adopted today during a joint meeting of the foregoing committees, which discussed Boris Yeltsin's corresponding request to the Council of the Federation, made in reply to an appeal of the U.N. secretary-general, ITAR-TASS was told by Petr Premyak, vice-chairman of the Committee for Defence.

This item was included in today's agenda of the upper chamber's work. The committees also want the parliament to recommend the Foreign Ministry "to find political ways for normalising relations in that region, instead of steadily drawing Russia into the conflict," the deputy said. He also stated that Russian troops were being deployed in the most difficult spots of Bosnia and Herzegovina. In his opinion, this is because representatives of the Russian Defence Ministry had not been included in the command of the U.S. joint forces. "This omission must be corrected," the Russian MPs believe.

The meeting also discussed cash allowances to Russian servicemen. They now receive from the United Nations wages, money for the upkeep of hardware, and food allowances in amounts equalling to those received by units deployed at home. However, in accordance with traditional rules, these payments should be 100-200 per cent higher in combat conditions. Premyak said that this point should be included in the State Duma's bill on the Russian U.N. peacekeeping contingent, which is now being drawn up.

Russian airborne troops commander Colonel-General Yevgeniy Podkolzin, who attended the meeting of the two committees, told ITAR-TASS that there were now twelve hundred Russian servicemen in the conflict zone. If the Council of the Federation decides to send there an additional contingent, it will apparently be flown there in his planes this April.

'Memorandum of Accord' on Crisis Measures Issued

LD2402150894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1447 GMT 24 Feb 94

[Text] Moscow February 24 TASS—The press service of the Federal Assembly circulated the text of the memorandum of accord on Thursday.

Following is the full text of the memorandum of accord.

"Memorandum of Accord

"Realising the complexity of the political and economic situation in our society and the need to take urgent and constructive measures to ensure Russia's safe exit from the crisis situation on the basis of the consolidation of all power structures and political forces, we adopt this memorandum.

"Despite the diversity of our political and economic views, we have reached an understanding on the following goals:

"To establish genuine democracy on the basis of the strict observance of constitutional norms and laws of the Russian Federation, to increase the responsibility of all levels of bodies of power for the state of law and order and for ensuring the safety of the individual, society and the state.

"To provide for economic growth of the country on the basis of the development of all forms of ownership, regulated market relations, state support for the national economy, increasing economic independence of regions and manufacturers, reducing federal expenditures.

"To ensure an even distribution of the burden of the crisis between regions and social groups, support for socially vulnerable groups of the population as necessary conditions for society's agreement with the proposed pace and direction of reform.

"To reverse moral degradation of society, restore the prestige of honest labour, create conditions for the development of the individual and respect for the rights and freedoms of the human being.

"We are convinced of the inadmissibility of destabilisation in a country which possesses huge arsenals of weapons, including weapons of mass destruction, the loss of control over which may have catastrophic consequences for mankind. Considering this, we believe it imperative to conduct a political struggle within a legal framework, without resorting to or calling for any form of violence, national hatred or persecution of dissidents.

"In order to reach civil accord, we believe it necessary for the bodies of executive and legislative power to jointly consider the entire set of problems faced by political, economic and social reforms in society.

"We suggest that the government of the Russian Federation in cooperation with the committees, factions and deputy groups of the State Duma and the Federation Council, with the president of the Russian Federation acting as coordinator, work out within the next two to three months a package of concerted measures to resolve the crisis with the participation of the country's specialists, politicians and public figures.

"As far as regional policy is concerned, we agree to refrain from separatist approaches and insist on settling disputable issues through conciliatory procedures within the framework of the integral federation.

"As concerning relations with the states—republics of the former Soviet Union, we consider it important for Russia to abide by a policy aimed at strengthening inter-state relations and mutually advantageous economic ties, excluding actions aimed at provoking conflicts.

"Amnesty for people who are currently under investigation or custody in connection with the events of August 19-21, 1991, May 1, 1993 and September 21—October 4, 1993, as well as amnesty for a number of people who have been sentenced for crimes in the economic sphere could become an integral part of the drive aimed at reaching national accord by the people of Russia.

"We are convinced that only if all the constructive forces of society promptly develop coordinated measures on the basis of goals and principles proposed by this memorandum will ensure the country be ensured of a safe exit from the current crisis.

"The State Duma

"The Federation Council

of the Russian Federation

"Moscow

"February 23, 1994"

Gaydar on Memorandum

LD2402152594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1514 GMT 24 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Gennadiy Kulbitskiy]

[Text] St. Augustin, Germany February 24 TASS—Yegor Gaydar described the "memorandum of accord" adopted

by the majority of the State Duma on Wednesday as a resolution towards escalation of tension in Russia, destabilisation of state authority and creation of prerequisites for civil war. The leader of Russia's Choice parliamentary faction spoke here on Thursday at a colloquium "the Future of Reform in Russia" organised by the Konrad Adenauer Foundation.

Gaydar said special anxiety is caused by the fact that under the decision of the State Duma not only politicians involved in plots and coups but also such characters as Barkashov, Anpilov, Terekhov and their associates will be absolved of responsibility. "I do not have the slightest doubt that upon the release from custody these people will resort to their former activity and will exert every effort to destabilise the situation and unleash bloody clashes in Moscow again on May 1 and 2, 1994", Gaydar said. He believes that chances for calm democratic development in Russia decreased considerably and Russian democracy is threatened.

Duma Worried Over Local Election Campaign

LD2502114094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1107 GMT 25 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Pavel Kuznetsov]

[Text] Moscow February 25 TASS—The State Duma (lower house of the Russian parliament) adopted an address on Friday to the Russian president, as the guarantor of the Russian Constitution, requesting him to use his powers to ensure constitutionality during the election campaign to bodies of state authority in member republics of the Russian Federation and to bodies of local self-government.

The Duma's address to the president was prompted, above all, by concern over facts of discrepancy between this process and provisions of the Russian Constitution and the lack of adequate control over the observation of legality from federal bodies of power.

Lawmakers were especially concerned over violations of voting rights of citizens in legal acts adopted by bodies of state power in member republics of the Russian Federation, infringing on the principles of equal suffrage and restricting the participation of citizens and their associations in the election campaign as well as over violations of the principle of openness.

The Duma's address was also sent to parliament's upper chamber, the Russian Government, bodies of state authority in member republics of the Russian Federation, the Russian procurator-general and the Russian Central Electoral Commission. The address calls on them to take measures "to implement successfully new state construction in Russia by concerted efforts of all interested sides".

Regional Affairs

Gamsakhurdia Buried in Groznyy

LD2402192794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1603 GMT 24 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sharip Asuyev]

[Text] Groznyy February 24 TASS—Georgian ex-President Zviad Gamsakhurdia was buried on Thursday in the Russian break-away Republic of Chechnya. The funeral ceremony was attended by Chechen President General Dzhokhar Dudayev.

Georgia's first popularly-elected president was buried on the territory of his residence in Groznyy, where he spent most of his political exile after being toppled in January 1992.

Last autumn, Gamsakhurdia returned to western Georgia in a quest to restore his presidential status, but his supporters were ousted from Georgia by the Army, which stood loyal to the existing Tbilisi government of Eduard Shevardnadze.

Gamsakhurdia then reportedly took his life after being cornered by his enemies in a west Georgian village.

Last Thursday, Gamsakhurdia's body was exhumated and air-lifted to Groznyy from western Georgia, where it had been temporarily buried in a secret place under a village barn by his close lieutenants. It was reburied here in conformity with the will of his next of kin. As Gamsakhurdia's widow Manana put it, the funeral in Tbilisi "would be most likely used by his enemies in their political aims."

So Gamsakhurdia was finally buried with full military honours and now rests in peace. But for how long? His relatives and supporters join in the hope that the time will come when the remnants of the president are buried with all due honours in his motherland.

Dudayev Accuses Moscow of Destabilizing Situation

LD2402170494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1145 GMT 24 Feb 94

[Text] Chechen President Dzhokhar Dudayev has again accused Moscow of a desire to destabilize the situation in his republic, namely of provoking opposition forces for anti-government disturbances. He described such Russian attempts as futile and said that the Chechen leadership controls the situation in the republic. Dudayev warned of a fair punishment for all encroachments against the Chechen people.

Dudayev addressed a news conference on Wednesday night in Groznyy following the commemoration devoted to the 50th anniversary of the deportation of the Chechen people. We shall not forget 600,000 victims of deportation and 40,000 of those who died in the Great Patriotic War, he said.

The Chechen president welcomed the Russian Duma's resolution on political amnesty of those involved in the

developments of 1991 and 1993 and called it a "just" action. At the same time, Dudayev voiced doubt that the amnesty would be fulfilled.

Answering the questions about the fate of the Georgian ex-president Zviad Gamsakhurdia, who shot himself dead in the early hours of January 1, 1994, Dudayev noted the valuable role he played in the social and political life of Georgia and the Caucasus as a whole. Dudayev said that Gamsakhurdia acted in a noble way when he understood that further struggle would lead to a national catastrophe in Georgia and decided to commit suicide.

Peacekeeping Forces Keep North Ossetia Calm

LD2402170894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1602 GMT 24 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Shanayev]

[Text] Vladikavkaz February 24 TASS—The situation in the regions of North Ossetia where state of emergency has been extended until March 31, remains relatively calm, according to well informed military sources.

No clashes and conflict situations on the inter-ethnic grounds have been reported over the last twenty-four hours. The peacekeeping forces of Russia continue to fulfill tasks on maintaining state of emergency.

The same sources confirm that the crime situation in the region is still very tense. Over 3,000 vehicles were examined on the territory of North Ossetia. Seven units of firearms, grenades and hundreds of cartridges of a different caliber were confiscated from local inhabitants by patrol squads.

More than one hundred trains were checked up and escorted at railway stations.

Tatarstan President Praises Treaty With Moscow

LD2402233894 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1422 GMT 24 Feb 94

[Interview with Tatarstan President Mintimer Shaymiyev by Mayak Radio correspondent Ilyas Latypov; place and date not given—live or recorded]

[Text] [Latypov] From the very beginning it was clear that the reaction to the Russian-Tatarstan treaty from various circles, both in Moscow and Kazan, would not be unequivocal. Talking to journalists, you said you were receiving much response to the treaty. What are people writing and saying to you?

[Shaymiyev] An absolute majority of the population expresses gratitude for signing the treaty. People regard it as a guarantee of peace and stability; mind you, we never had any destabilization between people in the past, but the treaty gives them more confidence.

I would like to mention in particular the fact that we are receiving a lot of letters and telephone calls from the Tatar diaspora who are living in CIS countries as well as Russia. They are saying that we have taken a great burden of uncertainty off their shoulders. Certainly, the fact that the treaty clarified and dotted all the "i"s in our relations with the Russian Federation gives us confidence in our future.

[Latypov] One knows about the attitude by some members of the State Duma to the Russian-Tatarstan treaty. In particular, [Sergey] Baburin [leader of the Russian Path parliamentary group] said on television that the treaty was unacceptable. He wanted to stress once again that Russia had nothing to agree on with Tatarstan. On the other side, the opinions of radical nationalists in Kazan are just as acrimonious. It seems to me they have something in common, don't you think?

[Shaymiyev] I don't think it is anything—in this particular case they agree utterly and completely. This is a demonstration of chauvinism, Russian on the one side and Tatar on the other. This is unacceptable. These are extremes.

[Latypov] You said Tatarstan will not stop at this treaty. What will happen next?

[Shaymiyev] We are resolutely in favor of decentralization of Russian economy. Without resolving this problem, we will not be able to succeed in achieving further progress in the economic reforms.

More opportunities should be provided so that the reforms could be implemented on the ground. The fact that the treaty was signed means we are approaching a democratic federal structure in the Russian Federation.

One should pay tribute to the understanding demonstrated by Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin. Both he and we have undertaken great responsibility as a result of signing the treaty.

Buryatia Parliament Adopts Constitution

MK2402141094 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 24 Feb 94 p 2

[Boir Borboyev report under the "Buryatia" rubric: "Republic Has a Constitution. It Will Soon Have a President"]

[Text] One of the latest pledges of Buryatia Supreme Soviet deputies to the population, which has slowly been "coming to the boil," has been acted upon. The parliament session has adopted a constitution in whose first chapter the republic near Lake Baykal recorded its adherence to the idea of constructing a democratic, rule-of-law state as part of the Russian Federation. Buryatia's political circles have generally proclaimed, and are proclaiming now, their loyalty to Moscow while not concealing their recent dissatisfaction with the correction of the president's and the federal government's economic course. In its turn, the emergence of "quiet opposition" in Ulan-Ude is connected with the so far blurred, after the adoption of the republic's new Fundamental Law, political prospects. Under the Constitution, state power shall be exercised in Buryatia by a nationally elected president, a numerically small (55

persons) professional parliament (People's Khural), government, and courts of law. Future presidents shall be elected by popular vote for four years. The deputies insisted that future candidates should know the republic's economy well and be able to speak two state languages—Buryat and Russian. The future head of state shall form the government team, but unlike the team, he shall not be accountable to parliament.

In addition to the Constitution, the session, which is continuing, will pass republican laws "On Presidential Elections," "On Elections for the People's Khural," and "On Organs of Self-Government." According to observers' assessments, however, the main struggle between parties, movements, and blocs is still ahead. Shortly before the Constitution was adopted, the founding congresses of agrarians, young people, and athletes, who stated their preferences, took place in Ulan-Ude. It was not for nothing that there was a stir in Ulan-Ude around the court examination of a 50-million ruble libel suit brought by Buryatia parliament speaker Leonid Potapov against the parliament-government newspaper BURYATIYA. Incidentally, the newspaper filed a countersuit last Monday accusing Leonid Potapov of lying, and demanding that he pay 100 million rubles.

New Far East Political Movement Set Up

LD2402133294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1159 GMT 24 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Yevgeniy Lents]

[Text] Vladivostok February 24 TASS—The presentation of a new public and political movement Russian Far East was held today in Vladivostok, the administrative centre of the Maritime territory. It was created on the initiative of a group of deputies to the State Duma from the Yabloko group, who are now touring the Far East.

Speaking at the presentation, leader of the Yabloko parliamentary group Grigoriy Yavlinskiy stressed: "We are pinning much hope on the new movement, which should rally the reform-minded forces in the far eastern region of Russia."

International Affairs

Kravchuk Calls For Joining Nonproliferation Treaty

LD2502121494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1123 GMT 25 Feb 94

[Text] Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk sent a message to parliament Thursday calling for joining the 1968 Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty.

Anton Buteiko, the president's foreign affairs adviser, told Interfax-Ukraine that this message, the third of this kind in as many years, presented new arguments in favor of joining the treaty that follow from the trilateral communique of the U.S., Ukrainian and Russian presidents and the Western response to it. That communique provided for the nuclear disarmament of Ukraine.

"The president says that parliament should speed up making a decision," the adviser said. He emphasized that a speedy decision would be in Ukraine's interests.

The Ukrainian parliament ratified START-1 and Article 5 of the Lisbon protocol whereby Ukraine undertakes to join the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty as a non-nuclear state. Parliament did not, however, join the treaty immediately. Its Speaker Ivan Plyushch told journalists in early February that "joining the 1968 Treaty will be debated by a new parliament."

Official Discusses Treaty Accession

LD2402185294 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 1510 GMT 24 Feb 94

[Text] Kiev, 24 February—Valentyn Lemish, chairman of the Commission for Defense and State Security Issues, met Armin Kamer, Switzerland's ambassador to Ukraine. Kamer was particularly interested in the possibility of the present composition of parliament resolving the issue of Ukraine's accession to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. Valentyn Lemish noted the advisability of submitting this issue to the Supreme Council for examination in March of this year. The commission chairman also emphasized that it was desirable that the United States and Russia take practical steps now in reply to the Supreme Council resolution withdrawing the reservations to Article 5 of the protocol to the START Treaty.

Western Aid for Scrapping Nuclear Weapons Viewed

WS2402200494 Kiev VECHIRNIY KYYIV in Ukrainian 23 Feb 94 p 1,2

[Article by Oksana Boyko: "A Jacket of Aid for Ukraine Made in the West. A Strait-Jacket?"]

[Text] The ambassadors of Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Spain, Great Britain, and the United States met on 14 February with President Leonid Kravchuk to hand him a joint declaration by their governments that cordially welcomed decisions made by the Ukrainian Supreme Council regarding the tripartite Declaration signed in Moscow by the Ukrainian, American, and Russian presidents and the START I Treaty. The above states expressed their intention to closely cooperate with Ukraine and to assist in the dismantling of nuclear weapons, the conversion program, environmental protection, retraining and alternative employment for those engaged in manufacturing and servicing the nuclear weapons, etc. Bilateral economic cooperation was also promised.

However, no specific figures for the aid were given. As the diplomats explained at the press conference, specific projects are now in the works, though some governments have already devised their programs. The Japanese ambassador mentioned $100 million that his country intends to give to Ukraine, Russia, Belarus, and Kazakhstan for disarmament, while the German charge d'affaires said his government earmarked 10 million Deutschmarks for Ukraine, which were not paid because of conditions for START I put forward by the Ukrainian legislature. We will soon learn how much Foreign Minister Anatoliy Zlenko will "bring" back from Bonn, where he went on an official visit.

So, we will have a jacket of aid made by the whole world. A thin jacket. The same applies to the security guarantees—nothing specific was proposed here except for the bright prospects opened by the "Partnership for Peace" program, contacts with NATO and the North Atlantic Cooperation Council, etc. In general, however, all those solemn declarations are simply designed to give President Kravchuk moral support in his relations with the parliament, because Ukraine is expected to join the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty as a nonnuclear state.

But another press conference was held that same day, where they talked about projects for Ukraine estimated at hundreds of millions of dollars, and at their initial stage at that. The multinational ABB, whose president Percy Barnevick visited Ukraine on the invitation of Leonid Kravchuk, is one of the leading corporations in power engineering. It offered us projects directed at Ukraine's energy independence. They involve energy-saving technologies in chemical and petrochemical industries as well as modernization of our coal and atomic power stations, which for Percy Barnevick are the future of Ukrainian power engineering. They also provide for setting up a special international investment fund for atomic engineering and Ukrainian power engineering in general. ABB is planning soon to start up five or six joint ventures in Ukraine to implement its projects.

Rukh Leader on Disarmament, Relations, Cooperation

WS2402142094 Minsk ZVYAZDA in Belarusian 17 Feb 94 p 2

[Interview With Ukrainian Rukh Chairman Vyacheslav Chornovil, by Valer Kalinowski in Kiev; date not given: "Helsinki Agreement Is Advantageous for Everyone"]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Kalinowski] Do you think that Ukraine should give up its nuclear arms?

[Chornovil] If I were president, I would not sign anything that would contradict Supreme Council resolutions on this issue. This does not mean that we want to become "very nuclear." However, if I have some property that costs a million and sell it for three kopecks, I am either a bad economist or a little mentally deficient. This means I should not be permitted to manage anything, even my own household. The compensations that we are offered are really miserable and do not cover our expenditures on eliminating these arms. The removal of all SS-24 missiles in 10 months, including those whose warranty time period is far from expiring, is simply unwise. In light of the developments in our region, we should have insisted on more security assurances as well.

I believe that the process of nuclear disarmament could be protracted and last 10 to 15 years. This period would give us time to get back on our feet economically, and strengthen our defense potential. The world community would become accustomed to the fact that there is a country in East Europe named Ukraine. We need at least seven years to remove the nuclear arms envisioned by START I.

[Kalinowski] What could be Ukraine's reaction if the merging of the monetary systems of Russia and Belarus is followed by these states' reunification?

[Chornovil] For Ukraine, this would be a very dangerous process, and I once pointed this out to Stanislav Shushkevich. In fact, a wedge would be driven between Ukraine and the Baltics, granting Russia access to Poland. Strategically, Ukraine would be surrounded. Ukraine, unlike Belarus, is still upholding its independence. Thus, it is clear that our reaction would be negative. However, we would not shout about this, because this would amount to meddling in another state's affairs.

[Kalinowski] Would that be a death sentence on the Baltic-Black Sea Commonwealth?

[Chornovil] Nobody has ever tried to implement this idea; it was still up in the air and discussed as a possible project. Due to your question, I have just realized another danger of this "wedge"—it will ruin the project.

[Kalinowski] I would like to bring up the open letter to Mikhail Gorbachev published in SVABODA on 22 October 1987. The letter carried your thesis that "the Soviet administration gave Belarus part of Brest and Pinsk Oblasts, that are ethnic Ukrainian territories." Many Belarusians were gravely concerned.

[Chornovil] I have always advocated inviolability of borders. However, a large Ukrainian community resides in Brest Oblast, while the population in some parts is totally Ukrainian. Only a very uneducated or a very biased person would deny this fact. This is the way the border was demarcated. Incidentally, a Belarusian region near Gomel was annexed to Ukraine, while Kuban was given to Russia. The same happened to Taganrog that belonged to Ukraine until 1926. We should not dispute the current borders. Yet, we should guarantee that national-cultural demands of the Ukrainians are met in Belarus, and that these people maintain contacts with Ukraine. By the way in Transcarpathia, we have a rayon totally populated by Hungarians. This is a historic reality and one cannot do anything about it. Aside from supplying textbooks and training teachers for Ukrainian schools in that region, there can be no other presence of the Ukrainian state there. A similar situation is in Moldova where 600,000 Ukrainians live. Ukrainian elementary and high schools are opening there now, as was once done in Romania. Assisting ethnic minorities is part of interstate relations. If everything is done on the basis of the Helsinki agreement, such assistance will be advantageous for everyone and no hindrance for good-neighborly relations between Belarus and Ukraine.

[Kalinowski] Observers have recently pointed out that relations, including economic ones, between Belarus and Ukraine have been deteriorating. Why is that?

[Chornovil] In my opinion, Belarus has been too oriented toward Russia, instead of trying to create a certain counterbalance. If Belarus is too attached to one partner, it will never become an independent state. Even the United States does not buy more than a couple percent of its energy resources from one country, to avoid becoming dependent. If all the former Soviet republics united, the CIS could become an organization serving the interests of all its members, not just Russia. Unfortunately, Russia has been winning these states one by one by means of gifts, promises, and influencing the loyal nomenklatura.

National Affairs

Chornovil on Kravchuk Not Seeking Reelection

LD2402225394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1901 GMT 24 Feb 94

[Text] Vyacheslav Chornovil, the leader of the Ukrainian Popular Rukh, said the President Leonid Kravchuk's announcement that he will not run for presidency was a tactical gimmick.

He told Interfax-Ukraine that the statement of the president's press service made public Wednesday had not said anything of his unwillingness to run n the elections. What Kravchuk is doing, Chornovil thinks, is trying to foil the presidential elections, at least in June.

Chornovil was one of Kravchuk's rivals in the December 1991 presidential elections.

Kravchuk Prolongs Term for Active Servicemen

WS2402133294 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 0600 GMT 24 Feb 94

[Text] In an effort to provide the level of strength needed to ensure the proper combat readiness of the Ukrainian Armed Forces during the transition to a two year period of military service according to clause No. 26 of the law on general military obligation and service, Ukrainian President Kravchuk decreed to prolong the term of military service for six months for servicemen who had been drafted to service in September-December 1992 for 18

months of service and who are performing their service within the Ukrainian Armed Forces—the Border Forces of Ukraine, the Internal Forces of the Ukrainian Ministry of Internal Affairs, and the Civil Defense Forces of Ukraine.

Parliament Passes Resolution on Crimea

LD2402223994 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 2040 GMT 24 Feb 94

[Text] Kiev—At the evening plenary sitting of Ukraine's Supreme Council on 24 February a resolution was adopted "On the Status of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea with Respect to the Current Constitution and Legislation of Ukraine", which is meant to prevent the violation of Ukrainian legislation on the part of the autonomy's bodies of state authority and officials. In particular the resolution contains reservations regarding changing Ukraine's territory and state borders, separating Crimean citizenship from Ukrainian citizenship, the existence in Crimea of its own military formations, and the existence of a monetary and financial system separate from Ukraine. In accordance with the adopted resolution, the Republic of Crimea's Supreme Council is to bring the constitution and other legislative acts of the republic of Crimea into line with the constitution and legislation of Ukraine in a month. Leonid Kravchuk has been charged with ensuring implementation of the law "On Representation of the President in the Republic of Crimea"; Ukraine's president and procurator general are also charged with the duty of reacting to the violation of Ukraine's constitution and laws in good time. The people's deputies adopted a package of documents, in accordance with which a military collegium is set up within the composition of Ukraine's Supreme Court, and the post of deputy chairman of the Supreme Court is established, to which Colonel-General Volodymyr Denysenko was elected. Judges were also elected to the Supreme Court military collegium, chairmen and judges were elected to military courts, and at the same time judges of oblast and military courts were released from their duties, amendments and additions were made to the law "On the status of judges" and so on. Ukrainian Foreign Minister Anatoliy Zlenko submitted for examination to parliament four international agreements, which had recently been signed on behalf of Ukraine with the Republic of Georgia, the Slovak Republic, the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Lithuanian Republic, and also a draft Supreme Council resolution "On Ukraine's participation in the European Cultural Convention 1954". All of the documents were ratified.

Supreme Council Chairman Ivan Plyushch informed deputies that the morning plenary sitting on 25 February would begin with discussion of the draft resolution "On the reports by Ukraine's Cabinet of Ministers and National Bank on organizing implementation of Ukraine's Supreme Council resolutions of 17 and 23 December 1993 and measures to overcome the payments crisis in the national economy."

Meshkov Says No Reaction to Resolution

LD2402231494 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 2040 GMT 24 Feb 94

[Text] Simferopol—In an interview with a UNIAN correspondent on 24 February, Crimea's President Yuriy Meshkov stated: "For the time being there is not going to be any reaction on the part of Crimea's authorities to Ukraine's Supreme Council resolution regarding conformity of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea's Constitution with Ukraine's Constitution and laws. There are more important concerns." According to Meshkov, the resolution "is inexpert from the legal point of view. Kiev is scarcely managing to destabilize the situation on the peninsula in this way," noted Crimea's president.

Crimean Official Urges Support for President

WS2402132994 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 0600 GMT 24 Feb 94

[Text] Mykola Bagrov has resumed his duties as chairman of the Supreme Council of Crimea. However, he has returned to his work only for a month until the plenary powers of the current deputies corps end. The chairman of the Crimean Supreme Council did not change his decision to abandon politics during his vacation. He reported on this at the news conference which was also attended by our correspondent Yury Polonsky.

[Polonsky] Mykola Bagrov looked optimistic and confident to the journalists. Of course, the vacation did him good. He did not spend his vacation in Cyprus, as rumored, but was with his relatives in St. Petersburg. He visited theaters, museums, read a lot, and thought about what had happened in his life. The defeat in the presidential election did not change his views. Mykola Bagrov has not rejected his election program because he considered and considers himself to be a realist. His program did not contain any populist ideas. He proposed the most realistic ways for getting out of the complicated economic situation which, to my regret, is continuing to grow worse. Under this situation, believes the chairman of the Supreme Council of Crimea, it is extremely important for the session to formulate and adopt the budget of the Republic—the session resumes the work on 11 March. All this made him—despite his statement on the resignation, which, by the way, was not approved by the deputies—resume the work.

[Begin Bagrov recording] You know that today we can formulate the budget on the one-channel principle. However, speaking sincerely, this has always been attractive to us, but currently this will create additional difficulties. We should take this into consideration. Look, currently, the city should receive profits standing at 700 billion rubles [R], but it receives only R8 billion, so, I beg your pardon, the question arises: How should we react? This means that the problems with communal apartments and all the other stuff will stay unsettled. This can lead to the closure of schools, etc. [end recording]

[Polonsky] The journalists asked about the attitude of the chairman of the Supreme Council of Crimea to the new executive authorities in the Crimea, to the first steps of President Meshkov.

[Begin Bagrov recording] You should excuse me, but I expected that much more would have been done by this time. For a while, to my regret, I cannot say this. No one will excuse us for this stalling of reforms, therefore, the executive authorities should properly perform their obligations. [end recording]

[Polonsky] Mykola Bagrov is not going to oppose Yuriy Meshkov. This is not a proper time to do this. Today, said the chairman of the Supreme Council of Crimea, we should create normal conditions for the work of the executive bodies of the president. In the opinion of the legislative chairman, if Yuriy Meshkov requests some additional authorities, he should be supported. It is possible to introduce these changes into the law on presidency. Currently, people should be guided by vital issues, by interests of the Crimea. He said nothing specific about his personal matters and future. I want to stress, he briefly said, this is not the end of my life.

Russian Arrives in Crimea To Head Cabinet

LD2402210694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1711 GMT 24 Feb 94

[Text] Simferopol February 24 TASS—Yevgeniy Saburov, Russian former deputy prime minister, has arrived in the Crimea to head the peninsula's government.

Saburov has adopted an offer by Crimean President Yuriy Meshkov to take the position of the chairman of the Council of Ministers in this semi-autonomous republic within Ukraine. Reportedly, he already receives experts and government staffmen in the premier's office.

"I can only promise that together with my future team I will spare no efforts working for the good of the Crimea", Saburov told reporters.

Crimean Speaker To Help President

MK2402132094 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 24 Feb 94 p 2

[Aleksandr Pilat report under the "Crimea" rubric: "Bagrov To Help Meshkov. The Speaker Who Lost a Presidential Race Will Have a Role Yet"]

[Text] Opening a meeting of the Supreme Soviet Presidium, Crimean Parliament Speaker Nikolay Bagrov said: "My application to resign is still in force. But since the session has not granted this request, and taking into account a number of circumstances, I have decided to hold a meeting." Referring to the circumstances, Bagrov said: "First, the situation is difficult and we need to create a normal environment for the president's work. Second, there is no need to elect a new parliamentary chairman. Third, the Supreme Soviet ought to operate." Nikolay Bagrov gave a negative assessment of the Ukrainian Supreme Council's decision to hold local elections on 26 June together with the Ukrainian presidential elections: "This is unwise, all the more so because it will be in our tourist season." Bagrov proposed that this matter be passed to the session for consideration. A proposal by Presidium member Viktor Bobylev to lift the moratorium on holding a referendum on the Republic of Crimea's independence was turned down.

Later Nikolay Bagrov held a news conference. He told journalists about Yevgeniy Saburov, deputy prime minister of the Republic of Crimea: "This man merits attention, and he ought to show what he can do."

Nikolay Bagrov made it clear that he cut his vacation in order to stay in his office for another month (he will resign after the March elections) to help the president. "I am ready, together with Supreme Soviet deputies, to create conditions for the work of the executive branch." The speaker dwelled in detail on the proposed discussion of the Crimean budget at the parliamentary session. "If presently a city plans to receive 700 billion karbovanets in profits, but receives only 8 billion, drawing up a budget will be a very difficult thing to do," Nikolay Bagrov said. "What I very much fear is whether we will be able to survive after Ukraine enabled us to draw up our own budget and will not give us anything."

Nikolay Bagrov had a negative view on Crimea's joining the ruble zone and holding a referendum on Crimea's independence. In his opinion, all that is unrealistic.

Belarus

Deputies Fail To Adopt New Electoral Law

WS2402142194 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 1100 GMT 24 Feb 94

[Text] At the House of Government in Minsk, the 13th session of the Belarusian Supreme Soviet continues its work. Deputies began their working day, as usual, with the miscellaneous section, which was followed by the registration—279 people's deputies attended today's debate. After that, deputies returned to the issues that they began to discuss at yesterday's session—draft legislation on local administration and the economy of the Republic of Belarus and new legislation on Supreme Soviet elections. While the first bill was approved quickly, clashes erupted over the second one, and as the result, it was submitted for further consideration.

Having done this, the deputies began to adopt one piece of legislation after another with renewed zeal. Thus, without special difficulties, the draft housing code of the Republic of Belarus, the draft program for housing development, and draft legislation of public roads were adopted. Issues connected with taxes, however, generated many disagreements among deputies.

Moldova

Snegur Says Dniester Should Be Given Special Legal Status

LD2402230694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1711 GMT 24 Feb 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature No. 38 (528) by diplomatic correspondents Dmitriy Voskoboynikov, Igor Porshnev, Vitaliy Trubetskoy and others]

[Text] President Mircea Snegur has said he will take all measures so that the forthcoming parliamentary elections February 27 pass democratically with the entire republic's population taking part. At the meeting in Chisinau Wednesday with the U.S. Ambassador Mary Pendleton he said that only a competent and constructive parliament may further develop the process of reforms, whose success will elevate the living standards of the population.

A spokesman for the president has told Interfax that the head of state voiced confidence that the problem of Transdniester could be solved if the region is granted the special legal status. Snegur said that President Yeltsin had said about the preparedness to be a mediator at the talks to settle the conflict on the basis of recommendations by the CSCE standing mission.

Snegur has confirmed his intention to propose to the new parliament bills on granting a special status for the region of the left bank of the Dniester and for that densely populated by the Gagauz people.

Less than one thousand Transdniestrians took part since the beginning of the week in the parliamentary elections in Moldova. According to Snegur's decree, inhabitants of the Transdniestrian Republic are allowed to vote on February 21-27 at the polling stations on the right bank of the Dniester.

A spokesman for the Central Election Commission has told Interfax, the authorities of the Transdniestrian Republic put no serious obstacles to the people living on the left bank. The Central Election Commission explains the low activeness of voters by the shortage of transport for carrying people from the left to the right bank, as well as by the fact there is still time for taking part in the voting.

Parliament Elections Marred by 'Gross Irregularities'

LD2402164494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1330 GMT 24 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Demidetskiy]

[Text] Chisinau February 24 TASS—Moldovan opposition parties favouring unification with Romania received, in defiance of law, financial assistance from Bucharest for their campaigning ahead of the February 27 parliamentary elections, a leader of Moldova's Agrarian Democratic Party, Nicolae Andronik, claimed here today.

According to him, once being launched, the election campaign has been marred with gross irregularities of the election law banning any assistance from abroad to parties running for the forthcoming elections. In particular, Andronik said, at the polling station in the village of Varnica, which opened a week earlier for voters of Moldova's breakaway Dniester region, the local administration head instructed residents how to vote for opposition parties.

Moldovan parliamentary chairman Pyotr Luchinskiy expressed regret that the election campaign is blemished with breaches of law and ethic norms by the opposition, "which seeks to regain its popularity by these means". He did not rule out that the Central Electoral Commission largely consisting of representatives of opposition parties would not approve voting results if Moldova's Agrarian Democratic Party won the elections.

In this case, Luchinskiy stressed, the Supreme Court will have the final say. And the court has already cancelled the ruling by the Central Electoral Commission not to open polling stations in Gagauz-dominated areas for fear that residents there might vote for the Agrarian Democratic Party.

Kazakhstan

Adviser Denies Government Wants U.S. Navy on Caspian Sea

LD2402151594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1145 GMT 24 Feb 94

[Text] Tulegen Zhukeyev, Kazakhstan's state adviser, rejected information stating that the republic's leadership advocates U.S. military presence on the Caspian Sea. In the course of Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev's visit to the United States from February 13-17 "the parties did not even raise this issue," Zhukeyev reported in his interview with Interfax on Thursday.

The adviser voiced this statement due to the assertions of the Iranian admiral Ali Shamakhin who declared in his interview with the Tehran newspaper Dzhumkhurne Islami early this week that Kazakhstan invites the Americans to ensure an American military presence on the Caspian Sea.

Zhukeyev underlined that Kazakhstan does not plan to bring about the presence of American naval forces or involvement of Americans as military advisers on the Caspian Sea. At the same time he did not rule out the possibility that the republic's leadership would address the United States for consultation concerning creation of Kazakhstan's coast guard service on the Caspian Sea. "Americans have great experience in this sphere and currently Kazakhstan faces these problems with respect to the Caspian Sea," said Zhukeyev.

The state adviser also reported that at present, the Kazakh and Russian governments are defining plans to jointly guard CIS sea border on the Caspian Sea.

Nazarbayev Decree on Aid to Agricultural Enterprises

LD2402203994 Almaty Kazakh Radio Network in Kazakh 1500 GMT 24 Feb 94

[Text] The decree of the president of Kazakhstan on rendering assistance to agricultural enterprises in 1994 says:

First. In order to improve the financial situation of agricultural enterprises, long-outstanding debts of agricultural goods' producers of all forms of ownership to banks in the form of loans should be deferred, with the exception of targeted credits granted to replenish working assets given at the expense of the centralized crediting resources of the national bank of the republic of Kazakhstan as of 1 January 1994;

Redemption of the abovementioned debts will begin on 1 January 1999 in equal, interest-free installments over 5 years.

Second. In order socially to support workers of collective and state farms and other state-owned agricultural enterprises, the national bank of the republic of Kazakhstan should, under the guarantee of the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan, via commercial banks, issue credit aimed at redemption of the debts resulted from paying wages and made before 1 January 1994. These debts should be paid back on 25 December 1994. The aforementioned loan should be given with 25 percent annual interest. Banks should have granted all loans by 1 March 1994.

Third. The Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Kazakhstan until 25 March 1994 should find foreign loans and credits in the amount necessary to finance the measures indicated in paragraphs 1 and 2 of this decree.

Fourth. Commercial banks should be made materially responsible for three times the amount of loans deferred without reasonable grounds. The Ministry of Finance together with the State Financial Control Committee under the Cabinet of Ministers should fine commercial banks for deferring loans without reasonable grounds, crediting the fine to the republican budget.

Fifth. This decree has the force of a law and is valid from the moment of being published and will be valid until the newly elected Supreme Kenges of the republic passes a relevant law.

[Signed] President Nazarbayev
[Dated] 24 February 1994, Almaty

Kyrgyzstan

Akayev Denies NATO To Establish Facilities in Kyrgyzstan

LD2202234894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1950 GMT 22 Feb 94

[Text] Kyrgyz President Askar Akayev categorically refuted the allegations by certain media on establishment of some NATO military facilities on Kyrgyz territory. He emphasized that the only way to ensure the republic's sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity was to develop its relations with the CIS under the treaty on common security for the CIS states.

According to Akayev, Russian-Kyrgyz military cooperation could be implemented only in accordance with this treaty as it was pointed out at the negotiations with Russian President Boris Yeltsin. The Kyrgyz president announced that this provided for a radical assistance with stabilization of the inferior political situation in Kyrgyzstan, in particular, in the Gorno Badakhshan region. According to the Kyrgyz leader, this was vitally important since the culmination of migration from Kyrgyzstan had coincided with the civil war in Tajikistan.

Akayev stressed that the dynamic of migration of Russian speaking population from Kyrgyzstan was not due to nationalist dispositions or strengthening of the Islamic forces, contrary to the situation in other CIS Asian states.

The migration was due to the social and economic problems. The language barrier is now not that important, the

Kyrgyz president said. Akayev explained this by the energetic actions of the Kyrgyz leadership aimed at preserving the role and the space for the Russian language in Kyrgyzstan.

He made it known that 120,000 Russians had left Kyrgyzstan for the last two years. The Kyrgyz president reassured that everything possible would be done so that other 900,000 Russians "determining the democratic path of Kyrgyzstan" remain in the republic.

NATO Delegation Holds Talks at Foreign Ministry

LD2402155594 Bishkek Kyrgyz Radio First Program Network in Kyrgyz 0000 GMT 24 Feb 94

[Text] A meeting with the NATO delegation took place at the Foreign Ministry of the Kyrgyz Republic, which was attended by Deputy Foreign Minister Yeshemkulov. The delegation consists of representatives from Great Britain, Germany, Denmark, the United States, and Turkey. There was discussion during the meeting on the question of stability and security in the republic and the Central Asian region and on cooperation in implementing the conversion program.

Tajikistan

UN Envoy Delivers Letter of Support From Butrus-Ghali

LD2402123694 Dushanbe Radio Tajikistan Network in Tajik 1000 GMT 24 Feb 94

[Text] Imamali Rakhmonov, head of state and chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Tajikistan, yesterday met Ramiro Piriz-Baloon, UN secretary general's special envoy in the Republic of Tajikistan.

Ramiro Piriz-Baloon handed over to Imamali Rakhmonov a letter from UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali. The letter supports the measures taken by the leadership of Tajikistan to consolidate peace and promote national reconciliation.

Issues related to further stabilizing the situation in the country were discussed in the course of the meeting.

Rashid Olimov, minister of foreign affairs of the republic, and Karimjon Yuldoshev, state adviser to the head of state, took part in the meeting.

Envoy Says UN Knows Nothing of Concentration Camps

LD2302190294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1310 GMT 23 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Gridneva]

[Text] Dushanbe February 23 TASS—A UN envoy in Tajikistan said he knows nothing about the alleged existence of concentration camps in the Central Asian republic where opposition members are being kept, but added that the information needs a thorough check.

"We do not have any facts about the existence of concentration camps in Tajikistan", Liviu Botha, head of the UN mission in Tajikistan, told reporters on Wednesday commenting on corresponding Western mass media reports which claimed that political prisoners are being kept in three major camps on Tajik territory.

However, Botha confirmed that he had received the information and added that it needs to be thoroughly checked.

He stressed that the Tajik Government agreed to render any necessary assistance to the UN mission in inspecting the mentioned areas were the camps are allegedly situated.

Tajik Parliament Speaker Imamali Rakhmonov categorically denied in an interview to TASS the alleged existence in the country of concentration camps and of political prisoners.

One of the leaders of the Security Ministry qualified the reports as "dirty insinuations".

The news also caused open confusion among foreign and Russian correspondents accredited in Tajikistan who said they had heard nothing about any concentration camps.

State of Emergency Prolonged in Areas Bordering Afghanistan

LD2502112594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1035 GMT 25 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Gridneva]

[Text] Dushanbe February 25 TASS—The Tajik parliament ruled on Friday to prolong until July 1 the state of emergency in areas bordering on Afghanistan.

The state of emergency was initially introduced in January 1993 and covers, in particular, the Shuroabad, Pyandzh, Shaartuz regions and the city of Khorog, the administrative centre of the Gorno-Badakhshan region.

According to the parliamentary decree, the state of emergency was prolonged for the sake of "stabilisation of the political situation in the above-mentioned areas, safety of residents living there, as well as in connection with incessant armed provocations on the Tajik-Afghan border".

Peacekeeping Troops Commander Sees Moscow Talks 'Fruitless'

LD2302092994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0623 GMT 23 Feb 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature: by Sergey Logachev, Andrey Petrovsky]

[Text] Colonel General Boris Pyankov, commander of the coalition peacekeeping forces in Tajikistan, reconfirmed to Interfax that during his recent visit to Moscow he met with several opposition leaders who were also staying there. In his words, the meetings were held at the request of representatives of Tajik political opposition which expressed readiness to start negotiations with the Dushanbe leadership.

In Pyankov's words, the fear of the opposition to go to Dushanbe is the major difficulty in the negotiations. For his part, Pyankov expressed readiness to ensure their security in case negotiations are held in Dushanbe.

Otakhon Latifi, one of the representatives of the opposition, declared that negotiations with the Dushanbe authorities will take place in case they are held under the UN auspices and with the participation of Iranian and Pakistani representatives and Russia's mediation.

Pyankov reaffirmed that the UN plans to hold negotiations but he has still no information about their time and place. "In my opinion, this decision is still far away."

As Pyankov said, the Tajik opposition understands that the coalition peacekeeping forces represent a real force which substantially affects stabilization of the situation in the republic. As he said, representatives of the opposition expressed a request not to withdraw the coalition peacekeeping forces from Tajikistan as they are the major guarantor of civil peace in the country.

At the same time Pyankov believes that the negotiations in Moscow have been "actually fruitless."

Turkmenistan

Unpaid Gas Debts Causing 'Considerable Hardship'

PM2302143394 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 23 Feb 94 p 3

[Vladimir Kuleshov report: "Turkmenistan Has Cut Off Gas Supply to Ukraine. Other CIS Republics in Line for Same Treatment"]

[Text] Ashgabat—"On 22 February we are cutting off gas supplies to Ukraine," Turkmen President S. Niyazov announced at an extraordinary session of the Cabinet of Ministers. "We acknowledge that this is an extreme measure which was not part of the government's plan; the government tried to settle the problem by all the channels available to it. But in the end Turkmenistan's compromise steps did not find due support from the Ukrainian side—which is only to be regretted."

Let me remind readers that a month ago, replying to a proposal by the leaders of the "Turkmengaz" corporation to shut off the valves on the gas pipeline in response to Ukraine's systematic refusal to pay for gas and its violations of the agreements it had signed, Saparmurad Niyazov stated: "I agree that as a result of late payments for gas supply by our CIS partners, the Turkmen economy is experiencing considerable hardship. But, however difficult things might be for us, we cannot fail to take account of far more serious problems in the states concerned, and we are therefore willing to compromise...."

Today the treasury in Ashgabat is owed some $1.5 billion in debts from last year and this year. According to expert opinion, this is seriously undermining the state's balance of payments and the convertibility of the national currency.

Take Ukraine, whose debts for Turkmen gas amounted to $700 million last year and grew by just over another $150 million during January and the first 20 days of February. On dozens of occasions the Turkmen side has warned, requested, and tried to cajole the Ukrainian leadership to settle up at least partially, if not in dollars then at least in commodities. The reply was as follows: If you shut off the valves on the gas pipeline, we will obtain our gas unilaterally from the "Russia-Europe" gas export pipeline, thus depriving you of foreign currency for export deliveries of fuel....

For some time now Turkmenistan's chronic debtors have included Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Azerbaijan, Armenia, and Georgia; their negotiated limits expire any day now, and consequently gas supplies to these states could also be cut off.

Partners' lack of obligingness and their failure to pay for gas are hitting the Turkmen economy hard, impacting first and foremost on people's welfare. Crazy prices for goods and food and an occasional lack of everyday staples, coupled with an inability on the government's part to double or triple the population's pay—which it promised to do on several occasions last year—are the consequences of the debt problems.

Naturally, as R. Robinson, IMF permanent representative in Turkmenistan, stated, Turkmenistan will find a way out of the situation that has developed, but in order to do this it must not only work extremely hard in the budget, financial, and taxation spheres but also tighten its purse strings....

Azerbaijan To Receive Gas; Ukraine Supply Cut Off

LD2402164794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1616 GMT 24 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Lyudmila Glazovskaya and Oleg Lukin]

[Text] Ashgabat February 24 TASS—Turkmenistan is to supply this year 3 billion cubic meters of natural gas to Azerbaijan. An agreement to this effect was concluded during the recent vivit by Azerbaijan's official delegation to the Central Asian republic. The document was signed between the Turkmennebitgasexport organization and the Azerigas state-run company.

The agreement provides for clearing payments in hard currency. The contracting sides settled the price at the level of 80 dollars for 1,000 cubic meters of gas, transport carges inclusive. Azerbaijan is to supply Turkmenistan with industrial equipment, consumer goods and foodstuffs for the sum equivalent to the value of gas supplies.

As for gas supplies to Ukraine, Turkmen Oil and Gas Minister Nazar Suyunov *[title as received] confirmed they* had been fully discontinued because of unpaid debts. However, it does not mean that Turkmenistan rejects any counter proposals, he stressed. The republic is ready to consider them on any positive basis. Suyunov noted Ukraine's commercial structures are willing to cooperate

but they cannot do this bypassing state-run organizations resolutely determined not to pay off their debts. Once, the minister explained, Turkmenistan offered clearing settlements to Ukraine, but the latter turned down the offer. Now it also refuses to honour its bills.

According to the Turkmen minister, such an approach is rather surprising, to say the least. However, Turkmenistan is still ready to search for mutually acceptable solutions, which is proved by its agreements with Georgia and Azerbaijan, Suyunov said.

Assembly Chairman Discusses Cooperation With PRC Official

LD2202115494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1113 GMT 22 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Fedoruk]

[Text] Beijing February 22 TASS—China's intention to base relations of friendship and goodneighbourliness with Turkmenistan on the five principles of peaceful coexistence was expressed by Qiao Shi, chairman of the standing committee of China's National People's Congress, during a meeting with Turkmen Mejlis Chief Sakhat Muradov, who is currently on an official visit here.

The Chinese parliament chief emphasised the need to broaden friendly cooperation between the two countries in politics, economics, science, technology, and culture.

Qiao pointed out a considerable strengtheing of contacts with foreign countries over the past 15 years, RENMIN RIBAO reported on Tuesday. This, he said, was resultant of an active realisation of reforms and the open-door policy.

The Chinese parliament chief said China cannot do without drawing on the experience of foreign countries in the development of democracy and economics.

"However, one should not copy foreign models. One should act in line with the country's current realities," Qiao said.

Muradov said Turkmenistan attaches much importance to the development of contacts with China, whose experience may prove useful for the development of the Turkmen economy, RENMIN RIBAO reported.

Uzbekistan

Karimov Meets With Rakhmanov; Trade Agreement Signed

LD2202174894 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1500 GMT 22 Feb 94

[By Shakhnoza Ganiyeva and Sadyr Ziyamukhamedov; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Imamali Rakhmanov, chairman of the Tajik Supreme Soviet, arrived in Tashkent on a short visit today.

Serious and painful problems of the Tajik economy were discussed at the talks with Uzbek President Islam Karimov at the palace of friendship among peoples. In the opinion of the two leaders, Tajikistan's economic problems can only be surmounted if the social and political situation is stable,

A bilateral agreement on trade and economic cooperation between Uzbekistan and Tajikistan was signed as a result of the talks.

The news conference held after the signing of the document, however, was dominated by political issues, among them the problem of settling military conflicts along the Tajik-Afghan border and the attitude towards the state of affairs in Afghanistan.

Referring to these issues, the heads of the two states replied that they adhered to a policy of non-interference in Afghanistan's internal affairs and that stability in Afghanistan could only be guaranteed if Afghanistan chooses in favor of a democratic development.

Islam Karimov said that the presence of Russia's peacekeeping forces here was essential to ensure calm in the whole Central Asian region.

Karimov: Russian Presence Guarantees Stability

LD2202219994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1759 GMT 22 Feb 94

[Text] Stability in Central Asia "can be assured only by the presence of Russia as a guarantor," Uzbek President Islam Karimov said at a news conference in Tashkent Tuesday following the end of his talks with Imamali Rakhmonov, Chairman of the Tajik Supreme Soviet.

The two men signed a trade and economic agreement on the aid Uzbekistan will provide its neighbor. According to Karimov, the document "will jettison the short-term aid satisfying only immediate needs and will tap the economic reserves available in Tajikistan."

To help Tajikistan with the spring sowing Uzbekistan will send fuel, agricultural machinery, fertilizers and seeds. The trade between the two countries will be worth $140 Mn [million] in 1994.

Rakhmonov said that Tajikistan's border with Afghanistan had been violated over 25 times since January 1. He recalled that the Tajik-Afghan border was part of the CIS common border that had to be jointly protected.

Karimov said that Tajikistan could not join the agreement between Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan on the setting up of a common economic space before the Afghan-Tajik border was calm.

He denied that his country was aiding Abdurashit Dustum, an Afghan general. In his words, regional UN officials who checked the rumors to this effect did not find any evidence of Uzbekistan's aid to Dustum.

In Karimov's view, Afghanistan's President Rabbani was behind these rumors which were spread to make an impression that he had to fight a strong opposition. "Dustum is an ethnic Uzbek. There are 2.5 Mn Uzbeks living in North Afghanistan. This is the reason why such questions are asked that cast a shadow on Uzbekistan," the Uzbek president said.

Uzbekistan aided Afghanistan only with "energy which is supplied to Mazar-e Sharif through existing networks." Switching the supply off would harm Afghanistan's civilian population, something that Uzbekistan cannot afford.

Estonia

Meri Gives Speech on Anniversary of Republic

WS2502115894 Tallinn ETA in English 0744 GMT 25 Feb 94

[From 25 February POSTIMEES, pp 1,3; "News Bulletin" No. 38/94]

[Text] Friday, February 25—The celebration of the 76th anniversary of the Republic of Estonia opened with the traditional hoisting of flag to the Pikk Hermann tower at Toompea at sunrise. Riigikogu Speaker Io Nugis, vice-chairmen Edgar Savisaar and Tunne Kelam, Prime Minister Mart Laar as well as foreign diplomats attended the ceremony. Speaker Ulo Nugis held a speech, stressing that Estonia's history has been the history of freedom struggle and pointing out the dangers of the continued Russian military presence. But he assured that the events of 1939-1940 will not recur. Nugis added that the Riigikogu had managed to pass approximately one fifth of the laws necessary for the functioning of a democratic state.

The celebrations continued with the military parade on Vabaduse Square in Tallinn. Almost one thousand men from the Defence Forces units stationed in Tallinn (the Kalev and the Guard battalions), the Border Guard training centre, the Police Regiment, the rescue units and the Defence League, as well as 103 war veterans and 34 members of the Defence League youth organisation were lined up on the square. President Lennart Meri arrived to receive the parade, Commander in Chief General Aleksander Einseln addressed the soldiers, pointing out that the Estonian volunteers had crushed a Soviet bridgehead at Riigikala near Narva exactly fifty years ago. He stressed the role of youth in Estonia's military history, drawing parallels between the present Defence Forces and the soldiers of 1944. "The emergence of a new and energetic leadership is a guarantee of Estonia's future," the general said.

President Meri addressed a meeting and concert in the "Estonia" Concert Hall at 1700. He warned against the possible return of the Soviet mentality, caused by the economic and political difficulties, and, especially, by the weakness of law enforcement. The president dedicates a large part of the anniversary speech to this problem, reminding that he had pointed out the vital importance of this problem already a year ago. However, the task of guaranteeing public safety has become even more important during the year, he said. "Theatre shows start at five in the afternoon, since the audience fears to move in the streets in the dark. The people fear to walk in parks even in daylight. The people fear village roads. The people fear a knock on the door. The Estonians do not feel to be the masters of their state," President Meri said, warning that this may have a number of serious consequences. The foreign investors may be discouraged by the growing lawlessness, the reputation of Estonia as a reliable partner suffers internationally, he stressed. The president saw a third threat in the desire for anti-democratic measures, provoked by the impotence of the law enforcement agencies. He referred to a recent call to use "state terror against criminal gangs" by a nationalist meeting as shameful. However, the primary aim of the state leadership and the nation in 1994 must be to guarantee law and order, President Meri stressed.

The president echoed some critics of the government who had claimed that Estonia needs a strong police force and border guard rather than powerful defence forces. "Despite everything, we have preferred the rapid building of the army to efficient control of the border. Now we are experiencing its painful backlash, since the disappearing sense of security and the growing organised crime are a direct result of this miscalculation," he said. The president mentioned the delayed negotiations with Russia, but expressed his conviction that Russia will withdraw its troops by August 31. He pointed out that Russian President Boris Yeltsin had recognised Estonia's 75-year historic continuity in his message of congratulation.

The president dedicated the last part of his speech to the pensioners who have borne the brunt of the economic reorganisation. He mentioned a 94-year-old woman who had knit socks for the Defence Forces soldiers and hoped that the present generation could be said to have done as much in 94 years time.

The celebrations ended with a presidential reception in the "Sakala" Centre at 19.00 and a firework at 20.00

Latvia

Polish Delegation Arrives, Meets With Officials

Joint Declaration Signed

WS2402183494 Riga LETA in English 1352 GMT 24 Feb 94

[Excerpts] Riga, February 24 (LETA)—February 23, an official visit of the Polish President, Lech Walesa to Latvia began. Lech Walesa and his spouse were met by the Latvian president, Guntis Ulmanis, and his wife. The high-ranking guest was also met by the Latvian prime minister, Valdis Birkavs, other officials and the heads of the diplomatic representations accredited in Latvia.

Without Latvia being free, there are no guarantees for the freedom of Poland as well, the Polish President Lech Walesa said at the signing ceremony in Riga castle. Earlier Walesa and Latvian President Guntis Ulmanis discussed a wide range of issues concerning the domestic and foreign policy of both countries, including privatization, foreign aid, security and defence problems. They agreed that the possibilities of cooperation had hardly been exhausted.

According to the Latvian president press report the Polish president said that other countries could view Latvia as an example in respect of the human rights. Speaking about the citizenship for the ethnic Poles in Latvia, Walesa also approved the suggestion to support Latvia in the international organizations as the human right situation in Latvia could be put forward as a positive example.

Then a joint declaration on strengthening the friendship and cooperation between Latvia and Poland was signed.

The document said that on the basis of historically friendly relations between the two nations and the re-establishment of relations at a state level in the early 1990's Latvia and Poland reaffirmed their commitment to continued development of these relations in compliance with the internationally accepted principles. They will support the settlement of conflicts through peaceful means with respect of the democratic principles and rights of ethnic minorities.

The parties agreed to maintain the bilateral relationship as well as to cooperate on the international level with the hope of resolving international problems in security, human rights and other fields.

They will continue the dialogue on the international issues of mutual interest and hold regular consultations at the highest level to achieve this aim.

Latvia and Poland agreed to coordinate their participation and initiatives within the framework of the NATO programme "Partnership for Peace" and said they were ready to develop and strengthen the CSCE process.

Both countries stressed in the declaration their recognition of the key role of the Council of Europe in strengthening democracy and human rights. Poland assured Latvia of its support in Latvia's attempts to join the organization. Both states suggested that more attention should be paid to increase the effectiveness of the cooperation between the Baltic States.

Another declaration that called to restore in effect the agreements signed between Latvia and Poland in 1922-38 and the agreement on legal assistance in respect of civil, marital and labour as well as criminal cases were also signed.

According to the governmental information agency, Latvian-Polish relations were discussed at the meeting between the Latvian prime minister, Valdis Birkavs, and the Polish president, Lech Walesa. Special attention was payed to the questions of cooperation in the spheres of economics and security.

It was admitted at the negotiations that the improvement of communication between the two states is very important for the development of cooperation between Latvia and Poland. In the near future, through bus service will be established between the two republics. Walesa was greatly interested in possible establishment of ferry service between Liepaja and Gdansk. The high-ranking guest spoke of the activization of negotiations among Latvia, Lithuania and Poland concerning the establishment of a railway corridor from Riga to the Polish frontier. Birkavs suggested that exhibitions of goods made in Poland and Latvia should be regularly organized in the two countries in order to promote the development of Latvian-Polish trade relations.

At the press conference after meeting with Lech Walesa, Valdis Birkavs said that Poland and Latvia are not satisfied with the partnership for peace program in respect of security guarantees for both states that the program does not provide. However, the sides find their participation positive, for it makes possible to introduce order into their armed forces.

Birkavs said the discussion also involved the issue of Kaliningrad area, with the numerous Russian troops stationed there as well as on the territory of Poland. On these grounds the future tackling the issue should be carried out on the international level. [passage omitted]

Today the Polish president continues his visit.

Ulmanis, Walesa Hold Talks

LD2402160394 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1400 GMT 24 Feb 94

[Text] At a news conference at Reiterna House today, Latvian State President Guntis Ulmanis indicated that Polish President Lech Walesa's visit to Latvia has helped to open a political door for the parliament of our country, the executive power, and other institutions to enter. Guntis Ulmanis related that during the meeting with Walesa they also discussed bilateral cooperation between the two countries on a European scale, as well as issues related to the process of the withdrawal of the Russian Army and the Skrunda radar station.

Problems concerning minorities in Latvia have also been discussed. Latvia has to look for grounds to prevent it from being accused of ethnic cleansing and violation of human rights. During the talks, cooperation between the two countries in defense, trade, and the economy was also examined. The Latvian president noted that it would be necessary for representatives of the ministries of foreign affairs and the councils of ministers of the two countries to meet in the near future. The Latvian and Polish prime ministers will have to meet to conclude a cooperation agreement between the two countries.

Polish President Lech Walesa for his part told the news conference that the heads of the two states take the same approach on the most important issues, therefore, it is possible to tackle many problems together. Walesa stressed that Latvia and Poland also have a common mission in guaranteeing security and welfare in Europe.

Speaking of the influence of Russian foreign policy on European security, the Latvian president explained that on the one hand it is a megaphone policy, especially in relation to the countries which were once parts of the USSR, but on the other hand, it is Russia's real policy. Ulmanis added that in the event that the policy set forth in Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev's speeches is implemented, the Baltic countries will be directly threatened. Guntis Ulmanis expressed the opinion that Russia's attitude toward the NATO Partnership for Peace program is not clear either, because on the one hand Russia apparently supports it, but on the other, Russia's action in that direction cannot be seen.

Walesa on NATO Aspirations

LD2402180994 Warsaw Radio Warszawa Network in Polish 1500 GMT 24 Feb 94

[Text] Poland and Latvia have similar views on issues most important to both countries. This was stated at a news conference of the Polish and Latvian presidents in Riga.

According to President Guntis Ulmanis, Poland as the largest country in the region could become a guarantor for the unity of the Baltic states. Imperial voices in Russia pose a real threat, it was said at the conference.

Asked to comment on Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev's statement that the states of Central Europe should consider their aspirations toward NATO, Lech Walesa replied: We have already done that. I suggest Kozyrev should consider it and not hamper our intentions.

According to Walesa the West does not know about a large concentration of Russian troops in Kaliningrad Oblast. One has to ask publicly, what purpose is it serving, how much does it cost and who is threatened by it.

During his visit to Riga, President Walesa today visited the Latvian Saeima and met its speaker. He also continued talks with the Latvian president and met Latvian defense and foreign affairs ministers.

Walesa Addresses Saeima

LD2402222394 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1400 GMT 24 Feb 94

[Text] Today, on the second and last day of his visit, Polish President Lech Walesa met the Saeima Chairman Anatolijs Gorbunovs. After talks, the distinguished guest addressed the Saeima deputies. Walesa pointed out that the visit had fulfilled its purpose, because it had once again affirmed the diplomatic relations between the two countries, giving a sincere and friendly character to the official declarations. The Polish president noted that there is much in common in the histories of Latvia and Poland. Both countries fell victim to the brutality of Hitler and the Soviet Union. Walesa noted that the Polish Government in exile, the legitimate representatives of the nation, never recognized the annexation of Latvia.

Addressing the Saeima deputies, the Polish president noted that the two countries are currently solving similar problems of a political, economic, and social nature. Mutual cooperation by the two countries can assist in solving Latvia's economic problems. Walesa noted with satisfaction that the authorities in the Republic of Latvia have guaranteed the Polish minority the opportunity to develop undisturbed and preserve their national qualities. For this, I want to express here in your parliament my sincere gratitude.

The Polish president expressed the hope that his visit will help to create all-round cordial relations between Poland and Latvia.

Afterwards, a speech in response was made by Saeima Chairman Anatolijs Gorbunovs:

[Begin Gorbunovs recording] Highly esteemed president of Poland, I wish to thank you for your address. I think that I express the thoughts of the deputies as well in declaring my satisfaction that you, highly esteemed president, have during your visit attended the Saeima of the Republic of Latvia. I especially wish to pay my respects to you, because your name is undeniably inscribed in the recent history of the transformations in Europe. We know that the processes that at present seem objective and inevitable, at the time, for the initiators of these transformations, demanded very much. At that time, Polish Solidarity, under your leadership, boldly showed the way that had to be undertaken by the other countries of Central and Eastern Europe. No less responsibility rests upon us today, when along with painful economic reforms, countries that recently returned to the company of free nations are seeking a way to stand together with the big developed countries on the map of common European security. All the more so because Latvia, like Poland, is conscious of being fully entitled to be a shaper of the new democratic Europe today and in the future. We fully concur with the idea expressed by you, Mr. President, that we must cope with the demands posed by the new times and the new situation in Europe. As Latvia is step by step being connected to the circuit of Europe, we see in Poland one of our closest partners. With great attention we have been following your country's experience of political and economic reforms, and what you have achieved has given us great hope. Let me wish success to you, to the whole Polish nation, in realizing those aims that you put forward on the way to prosperity, peace, and security. May your visit to Latvia serve the growth of our nations and our countries. [end recording]

That was the speech in response to the Polish president by Saeima Chairman Anatolijs Gorbunovs.

Foreign Minister Concerned About Security Guarantees

LD2402231694 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 2100 GMT 24 Feb 94

[Text] Latvian Foreign Minister Georgs Andrejevs in an interview on Thursday [24 February] that at present there are no international guarantees for Latvia's security if an agreement is concluded on the withdrawal of Russian troops from Latvia by 31 August. Andrejevs explained that Latvia can only rely on the gentlemanly behavior of the countries and organizations that have given advice in supporting Latvia if, as a result of concluding the agreement, Latvia's security is somehow threatened.

Andrejevs added that at present even the governing coalition is not fully unanimous as to whether such an agreement would be profitable to Latvia. Therefore the discussion on this theme is still continuing. Besides, Latvia will not conclude the agreement if Russia does not back down on the issue of the social provision for Russian military pensioners, added Andrejevs.

Speaking of the decision of the Russian State Duma on amnesty for participants in the unrest of 1991, Andrejevs

emphasized that this question is an internal Russian problem. But in the longer term, it could strengthen the hand of the extreme radical and conservative wings in Russia, which would not be favorable to Latvia. Thus the potential danger grows, added Andrejevs. Besides, such a resolution also shows the balance of power in the Russian State Duma.

Ulmanis Accepts Resignation of Press Secretary

WS2402183694 Riga LETA in English 1352 GMT 24 Feb 94

[Text] Riga, February 24, LETA—The President of Latvia Guntis Ulmanis has accepted the resignation of his Press Secretary Anta Busa. During the news conference at the cabinet of minister he said that "Anta has commited a number of inaccuracies which cannot be made good by any other means".

The resignation of the president's press secretary is directly linked with her comments in the telephone interview to Martins Kibilds, a reporter of the daily "DIENA". He asked Busa to comment on president's response to the protest voiced by the Latvian Russian-language press due to the fact that the President Guntis Ulmanis had donated to the Latvian schools books by Adolfs Silde. It turned out that during the Nazi occupation Silde had published anti-semitic articles hailing the massacres of Jews.

The answer Kibilds got from the press secretary was the following exclamation: "It would be better if the Jews could finally leave us alone. We have trembled and knelt before them long enough. It should be stopped once and for all."

In the interview to the Latvian Radio Busa said that she was forced to tender her resignation because the ruling party, the Latvian Way, was worried about her influence on the president as well as the increasing role of the president in the political life of Latvia. Busa said that her persecution was inspired directly by the Minister of Special Tasks Edvins Inkens. Inkens in his turn remarked that none of the ministers would be able to interview as Busa had said.

Lithuania

Walesa Sends Greetings to Brazauskas

WS2402133794 Vilnius ELTA in English 2000 GMT 23 Feb 94

[From "News Bulletin" No. 443]

[Text] Vilnius, Feb 23, ELTA—Polish President Lech Walesa on his way to Latvia sent his greetings to Lithuanian President Algirdas Brazauskas:

"Flying over Lithuania for the first time, I would like to send my greetings to Your Excellency as well as to all Lithuanian people and my own countrymen and to express my satisfaction that Lithuanian and Polish Foreign Ministers finished the preparatory work of the agreement on Lithuanian and Polish friendly relations and neighbourhood cooperation.

I wish the friendship between our nations should become more strong.

I as well as all Polish people wish Your Excellency and all Lithuanian people good luck".

Satisfied With Draft Treaty

WS2402200894 Tallinn BNS in English 1548 GMT 24 Feb 94

[Text] Vilnius, Feb 24, BNS—Flying to Latvia Wednesday [23 February], Polish President Lech Walesa transmitted a greeting to Lithuanian President Algirdas Brazauskas when the plane was above Lithuanian territory.

The Polish president expressed satisfaction that "our foreign ministers have completed preparatory work for the signing of the agreement on friendly relations and neighborly cooperation between the republics of Lithuania and Poland."

The accord had been under negotiation for one and a half years. Lithuania and Poland completed the talks Tuesday in Warsaw.

So far there have been no reports as to the exact formulas chosen to mention the 1920-39 occupation of Vilnius and its region by Poland.

Vaclovas Domarkas, Lithuanian deputy minister of foreign affairs, said after the fifth and final round of talks that the treaty includes "historic moments which trouble us, but no specific names or dates."

According to unofficial reports, the accord says that Vilnius has always been the historic capital of the Lithuanian state.

Landsbergis: Amnesty for Russian Putchists Not Valid

WS2502115494 Vilnius ELTA in English 2049 GMT 24 Feb 94

[From "News Bulletin" No. 444]

[Text] Vilnius, Feb 24, ELTA—Leader of parliamentary opposition Vytautas Landsbergis MP released a statement on Thursday [24 February] saying the amnesty to Russian putchists was not valid in Lithuania.

He said in his statement that Russian State Duma had issued an amnesty for all the defendants in the case of 1991 August coup attempt while there was more and more evidence that the former president of the USSR had himself participated in the coup. It is an internal affair of C.I.S. but the amnesty does not touch Lithuania which restored its independence in March 11, 1990 after a half-century of Soviet annexation.

Actions of Soviet putchists in 1991 in Lithuania will be further treated here as international crimes and rude violation of Lithuanian law, the statement said.

Actions Pending on Unauthorized Russian Military Transit

WS2402200994 Tallinn BNS in English 1548 GMT 24 Feb 94

[Text] Vilnius, Feb 24, BNS—Lithuanian Foreign Ministry and Defense Ministry officials meet Thursday [24 February] to decide on further actions if Russia attempts to carry out unauthorized military transit through Lithuanian territory, said Lieutenant Colonel Algirdas Jurkevicius.

Inspector Jurkevicius heads the Defense Ministry's dangerous cargo transportation division and is authorized to issue or to deny permissions for Russian military transit.

On Tuesday, he instructed Lithuanian railroad officials to stop a Russian train with around 30 armored personnel carriers, which were escorted by four armed Russian soldiers.

The train was allowed to enter Lithuanian territory from the Kaliningrad region late Tuesday when 17 flatcars with military equipment were disconnected.

The leadership of the Russian troops stationed in Kaliningrad apologized for an incident last weekend when a Russian echelon crossed the Lithuanian border without any permission of Lithuanian authorities.

On Tuesday, Russian Army officials requested a transit permission for a new echelon but Jurkevicius denied their request.

Jurkevicius said his decision was prompted by the media's strong reaction to the incident last weekend.

Until now, Russian military transit from Kaliningrad was reportedly carried out in accordance with the rules of transit from Germany. Apparently, the inspector is no longer willing to apply the same rules to transit from Kaliningrad and to transit from Germany.

Ukrainian Envoy on Security, Closer Ties With Neighbors

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[Interview with Rostyslav Bilodid, Ukrainian ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Lithuania, by Algimantas Zukas in Vilnius; date not given: "The Visit Is Necessary for Peace Rather Than War"]

[Excerpts] [Zukas] **Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk is arriving on an official visit to Lithuania today. Lithuanian President Algirdas Brazauskas stated a week ago what the two leaders had to discuss.**

[Bilodid] [passage omitted] Opinions about the possible military alliance sometimes voiced in the Seimas [parliament] are totally ungrounded. This is a manifestation of political atavism. A security vacuum has emerged after the USSR collapse. This issue is important to every politician. The problem of security can be tackled individually and in cooperation, but not through a military alliance. We will look for common issues in reducing possible dangers. We would not like this to be interpreted as actions directed against Russia or other countries. It would be naive to think that Russia can be bypassed or ignored. We often come across political naivete which sometimes stirs negative emotions. Compromises bear much better fruit. We will seek certain compromises during the visit, but definitely not military alliances.

[Zukas] **Ukraine will, probably, not refuse to participate in such an initiative as the "Partnership for Peace."**

[Bilodid] It is difficult to oppose this initiative. The Ukrainian Government assesses it positively, and I have not heard any hostile opinions, although there are different views. Certainly, the official stand will be voiced. Honestly speaking, however, this partnership is a palliative, a compromise. We will yet have to consider the formulations and concepts. We see, however, that Western countries are not ready to take us into their arms immediately. Moreover, it is naive and not serious to forget Russia which is being pictured now as a monster. We must take its reaction into account because we are realistic politicians. We do not need another Yugoslavia or Georgia. However, all this is happening next to us, and it is very worrisome. [passage omitted]

[Zukas] **Many people assess the situation in the neighboring Belarus as the "hunt for one of the Belovezh forest bisons." Not everyone in Ukraine approves of President L. Kravchuk's policy. Do you not think that the hunt for the second "Belovezh bison" is possible?**

[Bilodid] The situation in Belarus differs from that in Ukraine, and any analogies are meaningless. I believe that "storms" in the parliament encourage the development of the nation's collective mind. It is very important that the president has preserved peace in the state which has 53 million very different people. We have no "hot spots." The economy has declined considerably, but one should not forget the reasons. The foundation for a crisis was laid for 50 years at least. The USSR would direct all the money earned by Ukraine in the post-war period to other regions. Ukraine had a large industrial infrastructure, but the finances were not returned, and the capital stock became obsolete. [passage omitted]

[Zukas] **You are a representative of the sciences not only by your education. You worked in this sphere before entering diplomacy. Does your former experience help you find your way in political intricacies?**

[Bilodid] I assess history will all seriousness. Physics allows me to look for similarities between the two sciences. Parallels can be very interesting. The theory of phase transformations is an exact reflection of those changes

which we call the transition from authoritarianism to democracy. This is only one analogy between the two sciences. Our two countries are creating versatile communities which previously knew only two colors—of friends and foes. The vectors of your current interests are pointed at the East, the West, the North, and they almost bypass the South. This was also noted by the Foreign Policy Council for the Lithuanian president. Our embassy is trying to arouse your interest in the neighbors from the south. I am returning to physics again: The concept of stability states that if a system has only one degree of freedom, the level of stability is very low or it hardly exists. If there are three degrees of freedom, stability is guaranteed. It is the same in politics: The more ties a country has, the more stable its situation in the world is. A separate state is always lonely.

[Zukas] **However, relations between Ukraine and Lithuania are not too bright as well.**

[Bilodid] I have always thought about human relations. Certain things have changed today. Ukraine did not advocate the introduction of visas. We know that Lithuania was not interested in this too much. However, this is Lithuania's business. As soon as Lithuania introduced visas, we did the same. People have very clearly felt the emergence of visas. Our previous communication was much easier. Now we have been left with trains alone, although we are willing to negotiate air traffic again. Moreover, not every person can pay five U.S. dollars for a visa because the average wage is only $10-15. This reduces possibilities for cultural and scientific cooperation.

[Zukas] **How do you personally feel in Lithuania?**

[Bilodid] I have known Lithuania for a long time and I love it gently. I have spent many summers in the environs of Ignalina, and I would not exchange it for the Crimea or any other place. I myself asked to be appointed to Lithuania, although my diplomatic experience (10 years in the International Atomic Energy Agency, and six years in the United Nations) allowed me to choose. [passage omitted]

Second Unit at Ignalina Plant Shut Down

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[Text] On 20 February, a small increase in radioactivity was recorded by the Ignalina nuclear power station permanent control system in one of the unmanned hermetically sealed compartments of the second reactor.

This has been reported to ELTA by Viktor Shevaldin, director general of the Ignalina nuclear power station, today.

After additional investigation, a conclusion was made that radioactivity could have increased because of the leak of gas, which is used to pull the turbines, into this compartment. Although the rate of the gas leak was much lower than that permitted by the exploitation procedure, the administration of the station, however, decided to shut down the second power unit in order to be able to carry out a detailed inspection of the compartment and to eliminate the cause of the leak.

The unit is to be under maintenance from 25 February until 6 March, Shevaldin said. The head of the power station also informed that the increase of radioactivity in the unmanned compartment of the second block did not have any influence either on the power station or on the radioactive background of the environment.